

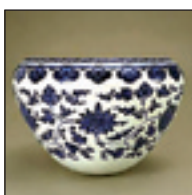
The mausoleum of Wang An murmurs a Ming Dynasty murder plot.

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Ancient calligraphy and paintings up for grabs at three auctions this spring.

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Fire, paint and fatherhood inspire Wang Shengyin.

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# BEIJING TODAY

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By Xiao Rong

Armed with good housekeeping skills, 22 young peasant women became the first graduates of a new kind of school yesterday.

Chinese economist Mao Yushi, founder and major shareholder of the Beijing Fuping Vocational Training School of Tongzhou District, sent them his heartfelt wishes on Wednesday night. Today, they step out into the urban labor market.

The 17-22 year-olds come from poor rural areas in Shanxi and Hebei provinces. After one month's training in household management and childcare, most have already lined up their first jobs in Beijing through the Le Ya Household Management Consulting Company.

The school, the first of its kind in Beijing, aims to assist peasants in poverty to find a suitable job in urban areas by offering basic training in housekeeping skills, said principal Guo Jinfeng, also a principal shareholder.

Tuition costs 500 yuan for a basic housekeeping course and 800 yuan for a childcare course. But students pay only a 50 yuan risk fee in advance. They pay back the loan through their salaries in the first two months after landing a job. The going rate for an *ayi* (nanny) in Beijing is about 500 yuan a month.

#### Personal Risk

The risks of lending are minimal, believes Mao, as students are generally trustworthy.

"No peasant borrowed money from the poverty-alleviation fund without returning it," he said. Together with his friend Tang Min, chief economist of the Asian Development Bank, Mao established a micro-credit scheme in Lin County of north China's Shanxi province eight years ago. The fund lent local peasants small sums at preferential interest rates.

Although poor Shanxi villagers benefited from the fund, the two economists still felt the fund couldn't solve the fundamental problem of China's countryside:

"In a nutshell, there are too many peasants in China," Mao told *Beijing Today*.

"A small loan can't help them to make money in the countryside. Only when the surplus labor from villages is sent to urban areas will the problem be relieved. So we conceived the idea of opening this school to offer them a chance to get a foothold in the city."

#### Urban-Rural Divide

More than 100 million rural workers will migrate to urban areas over the next 10 years, said Tang Min. If these peasants do not obtain a vocational education, the quality of labor will stagnate.

"The reason we chose to teach girls housekeeping skills is that it's easier for them to master. And the market demand for skilled nannies or housekeepers is huge," said Mao.

There are more than 1,000 housekeeping management companies in the city, mostly acting as simple intermediaries without offering any professional training, said Guo Jinfeng, also vice secretary-general of China Housekeeping Service Association.

"We set up the school," she said, "both to help the poor and to promote the training market for housekeeping."

After one month's training, the women will become staff of Le Ya Household Management Consulting Company and be offered a suitable

## 'Grandpa Mao' Trains Peasants

### Scholar founds school for migrant workers



"You need to learn to make some good dishes and make your clients smile," Mao tells the students at the late opening ceremony on April 8

Photos by Jiang Fei

#### Mao's Message

Mao Yushi, chairman of the board of the Unirule Institute of Economics, is one of China's top economists. The institute was founded in 1993 to express an independent voice from government and experiment with new mechanisms of economic research.

China's rural-urban poverty gap and the free movement of labour dominate economic debates throughout China. Mao Yushi and Tang Min advocate incentives for peasants — especially young peas-



ants from poor regions — to move from the countryside to the city.

With urbanization and agricultural restructuring after WTO entry, more than 100 million rural workers will migrate to urban areas in the next 10 years.

Mao and Tang stress secondary or primary vocational education in the countryside, especially to relieve poverty. By improving the quality of labor and professional skills, China can become a "world factory", they argue.

job.

"Besides Le Ya, any other household management companies are welcome to sign up students from our school. Actually, our first batch of graduates have proved very popular," said Mao.

The school improves their qualifications and recommends creditable housekeeping companies to students. "In any case, it's only the first step for these peasant girls coming to the city, and it's up to them whether they choose to continue with a housekeeping career or change to another job."

#### Supply & Demand

Making money out of this venture is a no-brainer, says the economist.

"At one end, the poor peasants in the countryside are waiting for the chance to go to the city, and so we needn't worry about whether there will be enough students," said Mao.

"At the other end, the demand for housekeeping workers, especially qualified ones, is huge. So there will be no big problem for our students finding work."

But the crucial long-term issue, he said, was establishing the school as a reliable name on the market.

"We have just started out, and so whether our trainees meet the needs of our clients remains to be seen. Only when the school has a reputation around the city will we really

reap the benefits."

That reputation depends on the establishment of an efficient management system, he explained.

"What we lack is not the money, but the appropriate management and teaching personnel with both responsibility and ability," he said.

The 73-year-old professor admitted he had not expected to become embroiled in so many trivial problems. He told *Beijing Today* he now finds himself spending a fourth of his time each week working on school management issues.

"Besides ensuring smooth cooperation among the staff, the psychological condition of the girls needs to be considered. They are really too young to judge what's the most important thing in their life," said Mao.

#### Poverty & Profits

With student enrollment at about 100, the school breaks even. With 150 students, Mao reckons, there will be a 30,000-50,000 yuan operating profit.

"We plan to enlarge our capacity to about 150 inside one year. And so far we have only spent 100,000 yuan of our total assets of 300,000 yuan," he said.

After the first profits, the group plans to open more branches in Beijing and around China — not only housekeeping or childcare courses, but also gardener training, hotel service and other professional training courses that help peasants adjust to the city.

"Those who have been trained are quite different with those without any training," said Tang. "This should be the essence of the service industry."

Tang said the idea of the school is a good one, even if it doesn't work out with a bunch of amateurs in charge. If they succeed, everyone's a winner, according to Mao.

"Even if we fail with this experiment, I still firmly believe this is a worthy career that is both beneficial and profitable. I can only say I'm stupid and incompetent. If I serve well and do a good job, the poor will be happy to let me earn their money," he said.

## 'A Chance That Has Changed My Whole Life'

By Xiao Rong

One economist's ordeal can be the opportunity of a lifetime for a humble village girl.

"I'm not well educated and so I cannot clearly express what I want to say to Grandpa Mao," says Li Gailan, 18.

Her face grows tense and she stammers slightly. "But he has given us such a good chance, a chance that has changed my whole life."

Li, from Lin county in Shanxi province, quit education after graduating from junior middle school. She learnt sewing for a year and later went to work in a smeltery, earning 300 yuan a month.

One month in Beijing means more to her than most.

"I learnt lots of new things which I had never imagined," she says. She lined up a new job nine days ago.

"I have no inferiority complex over others about my future profession. I think everyone is equal in personality," she says.

For Guo Yanmin, 17, also from Shanxi, learning to cook brought joy. In her hometown, she says, Mao is famous for helping the poor.

"Only after I came to Beijing did I discover Grandpa Mao is such a famous economist," says Guo.

Her parents at first didn't believe they could send their child to Beijing to learn skills without paying tuition up front. But Guo insisted on leaving her remote mountain region following Mao's advice.

Together with her classmates on the basic housekeeping course, Guo can now cook a dozen dishes, look after pets, iron clothes and use once-unfamiliar home electrical appliances. On top of that, the childcare course focuses on 0-3 years old, including English, computer learning and nursing exercises.

"I'm just offering a makeshift solution for girls to be able to come to the city. As to their final choice, that's up to them," says Mao.

"My final goal is to help young peasants move into Beijing together with their parents. It's my pleasure to help others, especially those who need a little help."

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI



## Death Toll Mounts in Air China Crash

More than 500 rescue workers continue to comb the scene of the Pusan Air China crash yesterday, where 126 passengers are confirmed dead, two missing. (Xinhua)

See Air China Plane Crashes in Pusan, page 8



# New Regulation on Medical Accidents to Allocate Responsibility

By Shan Jinliang

China's new regulation on medical accidents, expected to safeguard the interests of both patients and hospitals against the backdrop of mushrooming medical disputes nationwide, will go into effect on September 1.

Issued by the State Council on April 14, the regulation, called the Statute on Handling Medical Accidents, will replace a trial regulation put in place in 1987 and is aimed at ensuring appraisals of hospitals' behavior. Cases will be conducted scientifically and objectively in order to prevent and

minimize the harm of medical accidents.

Medical organizations found responsible for cases of medical malpractice will be subject to penalties ranging from closure to sanction and reform to the withdrawal of their business licenses. Medical staff involved in these accidents can receive criminal punishment or administrative or disciplinary penalties.

Unlike the old regulation, the new one stipulates that technical appraisals will be made by medical associations rather than public health departments. Public health

departments have been suspected by the public of favoring hospitals in appraisals, one of the key issues arousing public discontent regarding medical accidents.

An official of the Legal Office of the State Council who requested anonymity said medical experts should be neutral. Medical associations will set up a database on medical experts and will be entitled to organize experts to conduct independent medical appraisals.

To ensure medical appraisals are fair and square, the regulation also stipulates experts involved

in appraisals should withdraw of their own accord if related to the injured party or otherwise connected to the case in a way that might affect their objectivity. Either side of a medical dispute can apply for an experts' removal from an appraisal.

Both medical experts and legal medical experts will be required to participate in medical appraisals of medical accidents that lead to injuries or deaths, according to an unnamed senior official of the Ministry of Public Health.

The regulation also stipulates that all medical institutions must

provide patients with copies of their case histories, and then the case histories should be sealed in front of patients. This will enable patients to get true information about their treatments and prevent hospitals from being able to tamper with records when medical accidents occur.

"We used to strive to protect patients' privacy by not publishing their case histories, but now patients are more concerned about their right to access to this information," said Wu Dazhen, president of Beijing Tongren Hospital.

## China Youth Foundation to Go Transparent

By Wang Dandan

The Beijing Youth Development Foundation and the Hope Project Beijing office have promised to take three measures to open their internal operations to the public.

The measures will include opening financial records on total funds and the number of students and schools that have received donations, and releasing information on auditing reports and financial management. A third party made up of media organizations will be created to supervise the foundations' operations.

According to Gu Xiaojin, deputy director of the project,

Hope Project hopes these moves will allow it to come under public supervision. The organization will hold a "public day" every year and invite the Beijing Jingxinlei Accounting Firm to take care of the project's finances.

The Beijing office of the Hope Project received over 80 million yuan in public donations and built over 177 Hope schools in 20 cities in China by December 31, 2001. The Beijing office has offered financial assistance to 37,176 primary and middle school students and 659 university students, and provided funding for the planting of 10,400 mu (693 hectares) of forests.

## Companies Compete for 'Milu' Trademark

By Shan Jinliang / Sun Ming

Bora Milutinovic, coach of the Chinese national football team and known to Chinese people as "Milu (米卢)", has entrusted intellectual property company to register the name "Milu" as a trademark following similar moves by several companies.

Bora Milutinovic, a Yugoslavian, led the Chinese team to qualify for its first World Cup finals last year. Attracted by his strong reputation, many companies have invited Milutinovic to star in commercials.

Three companies, including one from Zhejiang province and two from Sichuan, applied to register the Chinese name "Milu" and the English name "Milutinovic" as brand names last year, said Lu Aiwen of Ningbo Heaven & Earth Electronics of Zhejiang province, which filed the registrations late last September. "Actually, I may have been the first person to apply to register the names I was told nobody had filed application forms then," he said.

The other two companies, based in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, have also applied to the China Trademark Bureau under the State General Administration of Industry & Commerce to register Milutinovic and "Milu".

Lu said all three applications have been accepted.

Asked whether the registration attempts could be viewed as violations of intellectual property laws, Mr. Chai from Chengdu, who applied to register the Chinese trademark "Milu" last November, said "Milu" is not the legal name on Milutinovic's ID card, it is simply a nickname, so the coach has no room to complain.

"My attorney told me the registration regulations say the first person to apply should always receive the trademark," said Lu.

Lu and the other two applicants are all optimistic about their chances to register the "Milu" trademark. "We intend to work hard to promote the trademark to become a world famous brand, instead of just seeking short-term gain if we succeed with the registration," Lu told *Beijing Today*.

Professor Liu Chutian, an intellectual property expert, says Milutinovic is not the first famous figure to register his name as a trademark. Li Ning, a Chinese gymnastics Olympic champion, and Yuan Longping, the "father" of cross-fertilized rice, have also had their names registered.

## Multinationals Embrace First 'Green Development Zone'

By Shan Jinliang

Hyundai Oil, Daehan Ultra-vision and Daishin Apparel of South Korea and Sorin Biomedica of Italy broke ground at the opening ceremony for the "Multinational Ecological Park" in Pinggu District held Wednesday.

The four international companies signed contracts on Monday to set up presences in China's first-ever "green development zone."

In contrast to economic development zones, this "Multinational Ecological Park" invites international companies to plant trees and grass in 1,000 mu (66.7 hectares) of land. International companies can build training or corporate culture centers in areas of up to 50 mu (3.3 hect-

ares) within the zone free of charge for 50 years.

"We are attracted by the fact that some events in the 2008 Olympic Games will be held near Jinhai Lake in Pinggu district," said Jin Chengxun, who signed contracts on behalf of the three South Korean companies with the park's management committee. He added, "we also hope to increase public awareness for environmental protection."

Pinggu district hopes the "Multinational Ecological Park," which is situated in East Wangdu Village, 80 kilometers from the Dongzhimen Long-distance Bus Station, will become popular with tourists interested in ecology and corporate culture.



The first tiger, a South China tiger, is ready to be transferred to its new home in Nanjing. (Xinhua photo)

## Tigers Trucked to Nanjing

By Shan Jinliang

Over 50 tigers were shipped on a journey of thousands of miles from their home at the Gunlin Xionsen Bear & Tiger Park in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, destined for Nanjing on Tuesday.

These tigers were the first group involved in the "Hundred Tigers Transfer Project", aimed at rescuing these endangered animals. Around 100 tigers from different species including North-

west tigers, Southern China tigers, and Bangladeshi tigers will be moved to a tiger breeding base in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu Province, before May 1.

The park covers an area of 500,000 square meters and is home to over 270 tigers and 300 black bears. It also serves as the teaching and research center of the wild animal resources department of Northwest China Forestry College and the Rescue-Research Center of the Guangxi Endangered Species Breeding Base.

## Peking University Grows by Third

University's scientific and research center to be moved to east of expanding Peking University Science Park

By Shan Jinliang

Peking University will expand its area by one third by continuing construction of the 1-million-square-meter Peking University Science Park (PUSP) in the next five years, said General Manager Ye Lining of Peking University Science Park Construction & Development Corporation on April 11.

As construction of the park progresses, Baiyi road, a main artery in Zhongguancun, China's "Silicon Valley," will be surrounded by commercial buildings and scientific research facilities. Construction of the eastern area of PUSP, planned to be completed in 2 years, will push the scientific and research center of Peking University eastward and clarify the division of its scientific and teaching areas, said Ye.

The 10-year-old park extends out from the central campus of

Peking University and is divided into three major sections, the eastern area Chengfu Park Area, the southern Nanjie Park Area and the western Guajiatun Park Area. Through 10 years of construction has given rise to a 200,000 square meter strip of high-tech industry around Peking University. Over 400 enterprises operate along this strip, generating a total annual income of 1.5 billion yuan and employing over 5,000 people.

Peking University established Peking University Science Park Construction & Development Corporation in September 2000. The central and local Beijing governments then reoriented the Park, turning the eastern area into a high-tech area.

"The new areas will mainly help Peking University students and researchers find financing for new ventures and accelerate the

progress of scientific projects," said Zhang Bin, cooperation department of the Corporation.

The park has set up a special international incubator for small and medium enterprises, offering a "full package" of financial, technological, human resources and office services. In the past two years, 30 more have enterprises moved into the park.

The Park has formed collaborative relationships with Stanford University of the US, with Samsung and Seoul National University of Korea, with Huamao Group in Hong Kong, and China's Global Venture, MMI Corporation and Beijing Venture Capital Company.

The development of the park represents the university's concerted efforts towards its goal of ranking among the world's best universities, Beida officials say.

### Ukraine Charters Plane for Expo

By Xiao Rong

A delegation from Ukraine will charter a plane to attend and display products at the fifth Beijing Science-Tech Industries Expo, to be held on May 23-28.

Over 100 enterprises from 20 countries and regions have signed up to participate in the Expo, far more than in previous years. Russia, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Ukraine and some European Union countries have confirmed they will attend.

Major companies that have participated in past expos, such as Ericsson, Siemens, Nokia and Canon, will also take part.

Domestic enterprises from outside Beijing, especially companies from western China, have shown great interests in the expo, with a dozen delegations having reserved display space.

### Court Given First Public Voice

By Wang Ling

Wang Jiyan, a 26-year-old recent law school graduate, became the first spokesperson for the Haidian District Court, and thereby the first of any court in China, at a press conference on April 13.

As spokesperson, Wang is responsible for notifying the public of results of key law cases and the development of judicial reforms through regular press conferences and answer reporters' questions.

The establishment of the court spokesperson system, one step in the acceleration of judicial reform in China, is aimed at promoting the implementation of the open trial system and strengthening ties between the court, the media and the public. Before this system was launched, the public was only able to learn about judicial affairs by actually attending open trials or from media reports.

### Americans Depict 'Beijing Today'

By Zhao Pu

Beijing Today, a US-China co-production TV documentary series to be aired by Beijing TV station and major TV stations in the US before October, will present a new Beijing to the people of both countries.

Production of the documentary began in Beijing last weekend. "This documentary, made by American producers in association with Chinese organizations and media outlets, will depict Beijing from the perspectives of Americans living in the city," said David Chen, chief director of the US-China Cultural Exchange Society.

### Subway Station Gets Compass

By Xiao Rong

New navigation aids, including ones written in English, were installed in the Fuchengmen subway station on Monday, the first step in the transformation of Beijing's original subway navigation system.

As passengers step out of trains at the station, they can refer to subway line maps and city maps posted in the middle of the platform for directions.

The original exit signs, marked north, south, east and west, have been replaced with signs reading A, B, C, and D, supposedly to clarify where the exits lead.

A new subway symbol was also erected above ground 200 meters from the station.

Similar navigation aids will be installed in all 39 subway stations currently in use in the city by the end of this year.



## China Eastern Buys 20 Airbuses

By Xu Ying

European aircraft maker Airbus signed a contract Tuesday to sell 20 planes to Shanghai-based China Eastern Airlines.

Delivery of the single-aisle A320s is scheduled to begin in 2003, the company said. Airbus spokesman Alain Dupiech declined to reveal how much the deal was worth, but said the catalogue price of each plane is between \$55.4 million and \$59 million. On Wednesday however, the airline issued a notice in Hong Kong newspapers that said the deal was worth \$800 million.

At present, 43 of China Eastern Airlines' 70-plane fleet are Airbuses.

## CICC Tops Underwriting Ranking in 1st Quarter

By Ramoncito

China International Capital Corp. (CICC) was the top domestic stock underwriter in terms of value of deals during the first quarter of 2002, according to figures issued by the state-run China Securities Journal Tuesday.

The Sino-foreign joint venture securities company's top ranking was due mainly to the China Merchants Bank's 10.95 billion yuan initial public offering in late March.

CICC, which is 51-percent owned by the state-owned China Construction Bank and 34.3-percent owned by Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, has been winning underwriting contracts from major domestic companies in recent years, overshadowing domestic securities concerns.

Among its major domestic underwriting deals are the A share IPOs of China Petroleum & Chemical, which raised a record 11.8 billion yuan in 2001, and Baoshan Iron & Steel in 2000.

## China Southern to Add Cargo Planes

By Ruby Chan

China Southern Airlines said Tuesday it plans to expand its freight business by adding two new cargo planes to its fleet and investing in a new cargo center at Guangzhou's New Baiyun Airport.

The company says it expects its cargo business to grow "exponentially" as a result of China's accession to the World Trade Organization.

China Southern will take delivery of two new Boeing 747-400F planes this year. The cargo aircraft are part of an order sealed in October that comprises 30 Boeing aircraft and is valued at US\$1.6 billion.

## Ma'anshan to Cut Steel Exports Due to U.S. Tariffs

By Chan Ka Sing

Mainland-based steel maker Ma'anshan Iron & Steel said Tuesday it plans to cut its steel exports in 2002 due to uncertain market conditions following a decision by the U.S. to impose tariffs on imported steel.

Steel exports accounted for 9% of the company's total production and sales volume in 2001, a proportion the company plans to lower substantially this year, Ma'anshan director Gu Jiangang told reporters.

"We will monitor closely the forthcoming developments and changes in steel prices and will make timely adjustments to our sales strategies," Su said.

In March the U.S. government imposed a provisional tariff of 8%-30% on a number of imported iron and steel products to shelter U.S. steel makers from less-expensive imports. Nine days later, the EU said it would impose tariffs of up to 26% on 15 imported steel products for six months.

## Toshiba, Sumitomo Take Minor Stakes in TCL

By Xu Ying

Toshiba and Sumitomo have bought minor stakes in major Chinese home electronics maker TCL Holdings, officials at the two Japanese companies revealed Wednesday.

Toshiba has bought a 2% stake in TCL for 500 million yuan in a bid to gain access to the Chinese company's vast sales network.

Sumitomo, which has had a close relationship with TCL, has purchased a 0.38% stake for 100 million yuan.

Matsushita Electric Industrial is also considering investing in TCL to strengthen an alliance forged earlier in the month, a company official said.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

# Haier Retreats from PC Market?

By Yang Xiao

Rumors are rife in Zhonguancun that home appliance manufacturer Haier is retreating from the PC sector. Last week, the company sought to quash the gossip in a fax to Beijing media, stating that it would continue to promote its home and business-use PCs in future. Haier PR department spokesman Ji Guangqiang told media that the misunderstanding might have resulted from Haier's strategic consolidation in its PC field.

The rumors stem from a story in China Youth Daily, revealing that Haier PC outlets in Zhonguancun have switched changes to other brands.

Zhu Li, a Haier outlet owner signed a contract with the company on January 1, 2000 to run an outlet on the first floor of an office building in Zhonguancun. She set up an 80-square-meter showroom exclusively for Haier PCs. But now the high rent has forced her to include other brands. She has split the showroom in two, 40 square-meters for other brands, 40 for Haier. She is now waiting to see what Haier's next will be.

In fact Haier outlets have been merged to include other PC brands or disappearing altogether since last November in six of Beijing's biggest department stores. According to a source within the company, Haier PC Beijing has "logged off". Its 20 employees have received lay-off notices. "After the Spring Festival, my pay was cut to 305 yuan per month," says Shen Jiang, a Haier PC direct salesman. He claims his colleagues all refused to sign the

dismissal agreement that would provide compensation and unemployment insurance. They are waiting for an answer from headquarters. When Beijing Today went to Haier's Beijing office Tuesday, a clerk refused to be interviewed, and said the person in charge of PC business was away on business trip.

"I know Haier is undergoing adjustments at present. But carrying out a so-called strategic consolidation is one thing, halting supplies of your products to all your retailers is another," says Zhu Li. She reveals that from since last October, she has had difficulties securing deliveries of Haier PCs. "Retailers selling Legend or TCI PCs made a killing before Spring Festival; Haier delivered late, even after the festival, with prices 1,000 yuan higher than other brands. Nothing could be sold," says Zhu Li. Since then, Haier halted its distribution and many retailers have incurred losses.

Haier is the biggest home appliance manufacturer in China. Its total sales income amounted to 60 billion yuan last year. CEO Zhang Ruimin has made the cover of Fortune Magazine on a number of occasions. The company started out as a refrigerator manufacturer in 1988. After making its name as the country's best-selling brand of refrigerators, Haier moved with equal success into manufacturing TVs, air-conditioners and washing machines. In 1998, the company decided to take on the PC industry. However while it was able to easily clone its successful methods in its refrigerator business to other



Haier's exhibition in its Beijing office with its motto "Higher and Haier"

Photo by Chen Shuyi

kinds of home appliances, utilizing the same sales networks; it had to build entirely new sales networks for PCs. At the same time, the PC industry was experiencing fierce competition. Established companies like Legend and multinationals Dell and Compaq all had a solid grip on the market. The home appliance manufacturer had to learn from them from the very beginning.

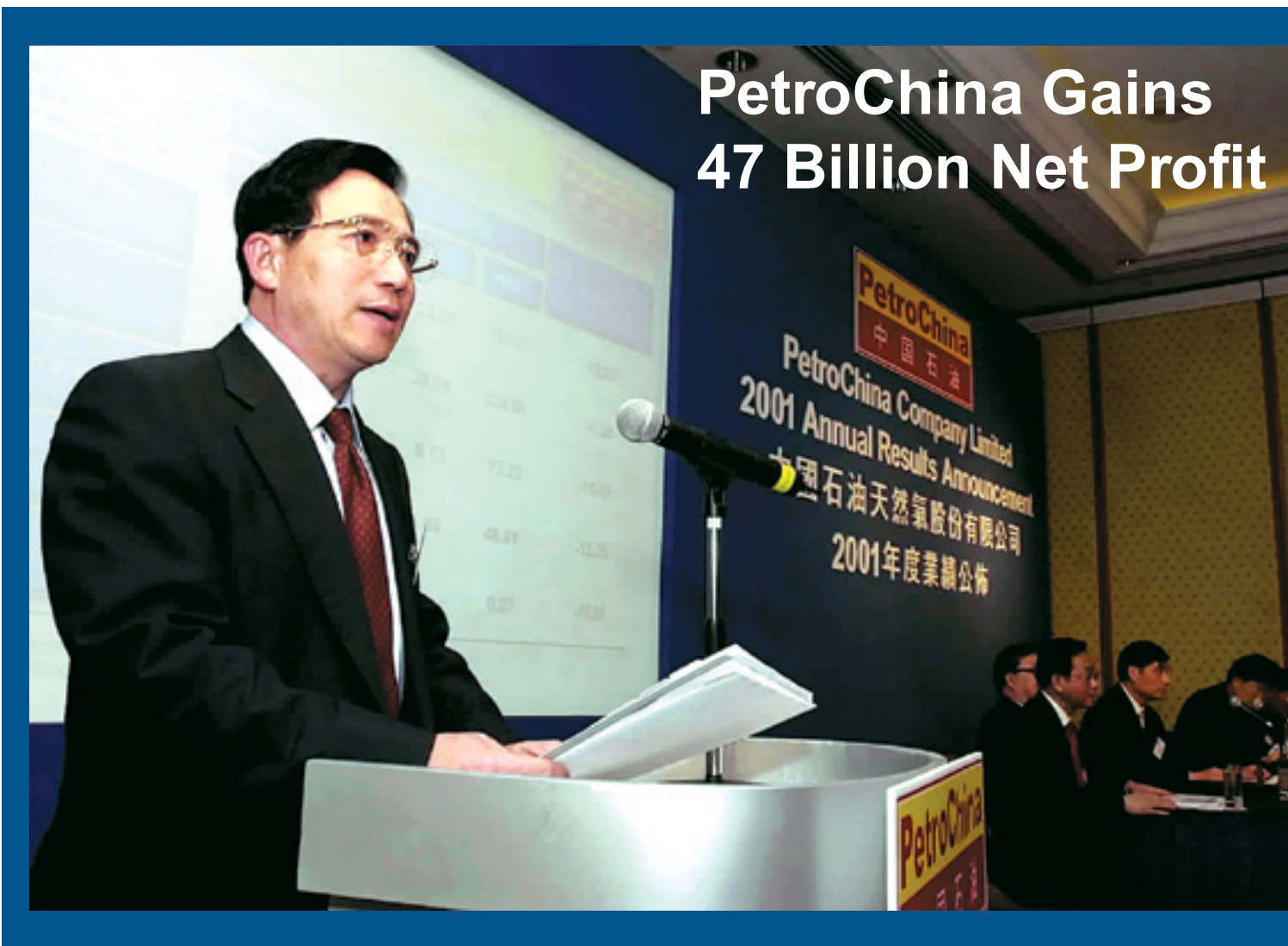
This year Haier hopes to see its name on the Fortune Global 500. This will entail cutting some loss incurring branches and projects, including its PC product line. The fax reveals that Haier plans to shift its business model in PCs from manufacturer to brand owner. Haier has a good reputation in China; its weakness lies in its produc-

tion ability. The company expressed in the fax that with strict quality control management, quality will not suffer as a result of outsourcing.

Reforms are also slated for its distribution channel. Only 50% of its channel is currently active. Haier will only support large scale and influential wholesalers and retailers in the future.

Zhu Li cannot believe a company with the stature of Haier might abandon her, despite the fact that "from April to November last year we took 10 million yuan in sales income. But they have not paid me any commissions and utilities fees since 2000." Meanwhile, Zhu Li has to stock other PC brands in order to pay the 600,000-yuan rent.

## PetroChina Gains 47 Billion Net Profit



PetroChina, the country's second biggest state-owned oil company announced Monday a 47 billion yuan net profit for 2001, the best result among all the Hong Kong listed companies. Board Vice Chairman Huang Yan delivers the company's annual report.

Photo by Xinhua

### BANKINGS & FINANCE

# Multinationals Scramble for Local Talents

By Wang Dandan

The insurance sector in the capital faces a new round of competition with the imminent opening of American International Assurance (AIA)'s Beijing branch. According to spokesperson for AIA's Shanghai branch Li Xuemei, the application to open the Beijing branch has already been delivered to the China Insurance Regulatory Commission for approval.

Meanwhile global banking giant Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation has announced it will hire about 500 new staff in China in 2002 as it boosts its operations in lower-cost economies.

### AIA enters Beijing market

AIA, the only foreign insurance company operating in China, has been advertising job vacancies in the Beijing media, an indication that it is only a step away from the Beijing insurance market. Most senior management positions have already been filled and staff have started pre-opening training in Shanghai, however the company is still

seeking personnel with insurance sector experience and sales consultants.

With over 10 years operation in Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou, AIA says it has built up a strong of management team ready to kick-start the new branch, but it is also keen to hire talented new staff.

### HSBC to add 500 jobs in China

HSBC chief executive Keith Whinston stated in the bank's Annual Review, "Further centers will open in Shanghai in 2002, again doubling our capacity and creating a further 500 jobs in China."

The processing centers have progressively taken on more back-office functions previously conducted by the group's principal members across the world, including Britain, Hong Kong, the United States and Canada. HSBC is shifting its back-office operations away from expensive places such as Hong Kong, where it owns two of the city's leading banks, to lower-cost economies such as China.

"Besides these 500 employees, HSBC has been hunting for management level staff," said Zhang Dandan, spokesper-

son of HSBC Shanghai branch. "Generally speaking, we don't actively recruit new staff, most of them come to HSBC looking for a job," she said.

The announcement has stirred concern among Hong Kong labor groups and legislators that it might signal a move by the territory's financial service industry into China's mainland, posing a threat to the jobs of local banking employees.

### Companies can't wait for talent to come knocking

Mao Deping, a consultant of Consult Executive Leasing, a recruitment firm for foreign companies, told Beijing Today that regardless of how big a company is, it cannot simply sit and wait for talented staff to come knocking on its door.

"Most foreign companies would hire headhunting agencies to find suitable management personnel," she said. "But the finance industry is an exception. It is customary for companies to try to fill vacancies by internal transfer, and only when they are unable to do so will they turn to a headhunting company."

There isn't a fixed standard for employing financial personnel, according to Mao. Some companies would require overseas study background. It is easier for these returned to get into the business soon while keeping the step with the whole world, said Mao.

According to the job index survey provided by TMP Worldwide eResourcing, the insurance sector is among the fastest growing industries in terms of staff numbers, with a 100% increase in China in the last quarter. Financial services are somewhat slower, with a 50% increase.

### Situations vacant!

With China's recent accession to the WTO and successful bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games, more and more foreign companies will open offices or branches in Beijing. As policies preventing or restricting foreign involvement are relaxed, the financial service industry will broaden its business scope.

The expansion is likely to lead to fierce competition among foreign and domestic companies for experienced local talent.



# City Provides Jobs for Overseas Professionals

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing is opening its door to overseas professionals to take management roles in the municipality's state-owned enterprises, according to sources from the Municipal Economic Development Planning Commission, the city's overall economic development authority.

Jin Shengguan, director general of the commission, said most of the vacancies are in the municipal-

ity's most profitable ventures, largest tax-payers, famed enterprises and publicly-listed companies. The first list of positions available will be revealed next month.

Jin promised the government will offer foreign professionals with salaries and compensation competitive with that of western countries.

Jin made the remarks at the Beijing Industry Development and Human Resources Strategy Semi-

nar held on April 12.

In addition, Jin's commission will cooperate with the municipal human resources bureau and the Organization Department of CPC Municipal Committee to create all necessities and conditions to assist talents and professionals both from the country and abroad to take roots in Beijing. The government will use such means as job assignments, contracts and online applications in recruit-

ment.

According to Jin, the city's state-owned industrial enterprises will jointly release vacancies again in October this year at the annually held Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Fair in Hong Kong.

Beijing's SOEs have lost 64.3% of their university-educated professionals to competitors since 1982. Most of the out going professionals went to Sino-foreign joint ventures and solely foreign

funded ventures. The damage is particularly obvious and serious in the industrial SOEs. This is the major driving force leading the municipal government's decision.

The municipality has opened many jobs to domestic professionals since the beginning of last year and has adopted regulations to make recruitment smoother.

Further vacancies will be publicized regularly.

## Beijing IC Design Park Opens

By Zhang Xiaoxia

Yesterday, Liu Haiyan, vice mayor of Beijing Municipality, announced the opening of the Beijing IC Design Park and recalled the achievements of Beijing's electronics and information industry last year.

Beijing's electronics and information industry had a production value of 84.6 trillion yuan last year, accounting for nearly 30% of the municipality's total industrial production value. To keep up with the rapid development of the electronics and information industry, Beijing State-owned Assets Management Corp. invested 500 million yuan in building the IC Design Park.

The municipal government also established a special fund

from which 100 million yuan will be invested in the park every year to encourage and support mid- and small-sized enterprises to develop products independently.

Enterprises that set up shops in the IC Design Park can enjoy services including EDA designing environments, MPW services and IP services. Twelve enterprises have established operations in the park and nearly 30 other companies are planning to move in.

The vice mayor also announced the opening of the 2002 Beijing Microelectronics International Symposium. A series of talks on technology, intelligent property rights protection and talent pool improvement will be held during the three-day symposium.

## Commission Solicits Solutions to Agricultural Puzzles

By Zhao Hongyi

The Municipal Rural Working Commission, Beijing's agriculture industry guidance and supervision authority, is publicly soliciting bids for contracts to solve problems facing the municipality's agriculture industry.

Projects include how to keep picked fruit fresh, how to farm sturgeon and make sturgeon farms commercially viable, and how to conduct on-site tests for chemical residue in poultry.

Peach orchards and sturgeon and poultry farms have developed in rural area around Beijing, but a lack of practical science and technical skills leads to the waste of massive amounts of products. The commission is hoping to receive effective, cost-efficient solutions from the public.

The commission has announced on its website (<http://www.bjnw.gov.cn>) it will receive and process applications to enter bidding for the contracts until 7:00am May 18.

## Exporters Invited to Set up Shops in Beijing Export Processing Zone

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing has officially opened the doors of the Tianzu Export Processing Zone and is inviting export-oriented manufacturers to settle down in the zone.

Over 170,000 export-oriented manufacturers operate in China, 60% of which are clustered in the Pearl River delta area at the borders of Hong Kong and Macao.

To improve management of the export-oriented processing industry, the central government initiated the formation of 15 export oriented processing zones, in Dalian, Tianjin, Beijing, Tianzu, Yantai and Weihai in Shandong province, Kunshan and Suzhou in Jiangsu province, Hangzhou, Xiamen, Guangzhou and

Shenzhen in Guangdong province, Wuhan, Chengdu, and Huichun in Jilin province, in 2000.

The total area of Beijing's Tianzu zone is 2.7 square kilometers. It boasts of an excellent infrastructure and facilities, include a 5,700 square meters warehouse, 40,000 square meters of standard manufacturing plants and 10,000 square meters of tax-exempt customs storage space.

Twelve ventures have begun operating in the Tianzu Zone since it opened last year, including SMC from Japan, which has promised to set up a 180,000 square meter export processing base in the zone with a total investment of \$200 million in the next three years.

By Zhao Hongyi

BMW displays its IT-connected car, Ericsson brings its mobile switchboards and Nokia the latest mobile telephone-information terminals.

More than 170 European companies, universities and research institutes display their information technology and products. They talk business with their Chinese counterparts at the EU IT Exhibition, held all this week.

"We are not only using the chance to promote the sales of products from Europe," said Urgan Sanders, Counselor for scientific affairs at the European Union's delegation in Beijing, at the press briefing for the exhibition earlier this month. "Instead, the ultimate target of exhibitors is to establish constructive and cooperative relations with their counterparts in China."

Pauline Stoner, information group secretary of the University of London, cleans her booth, receives visitors and answers inquiries. "We are presenting our distance learning programs Master of Information Security and Master of Secure Electronic Commerce to Chinese students," she says. "We welcome



Photo by Cui Jun

joint education programs with Chinese universities, if possible."

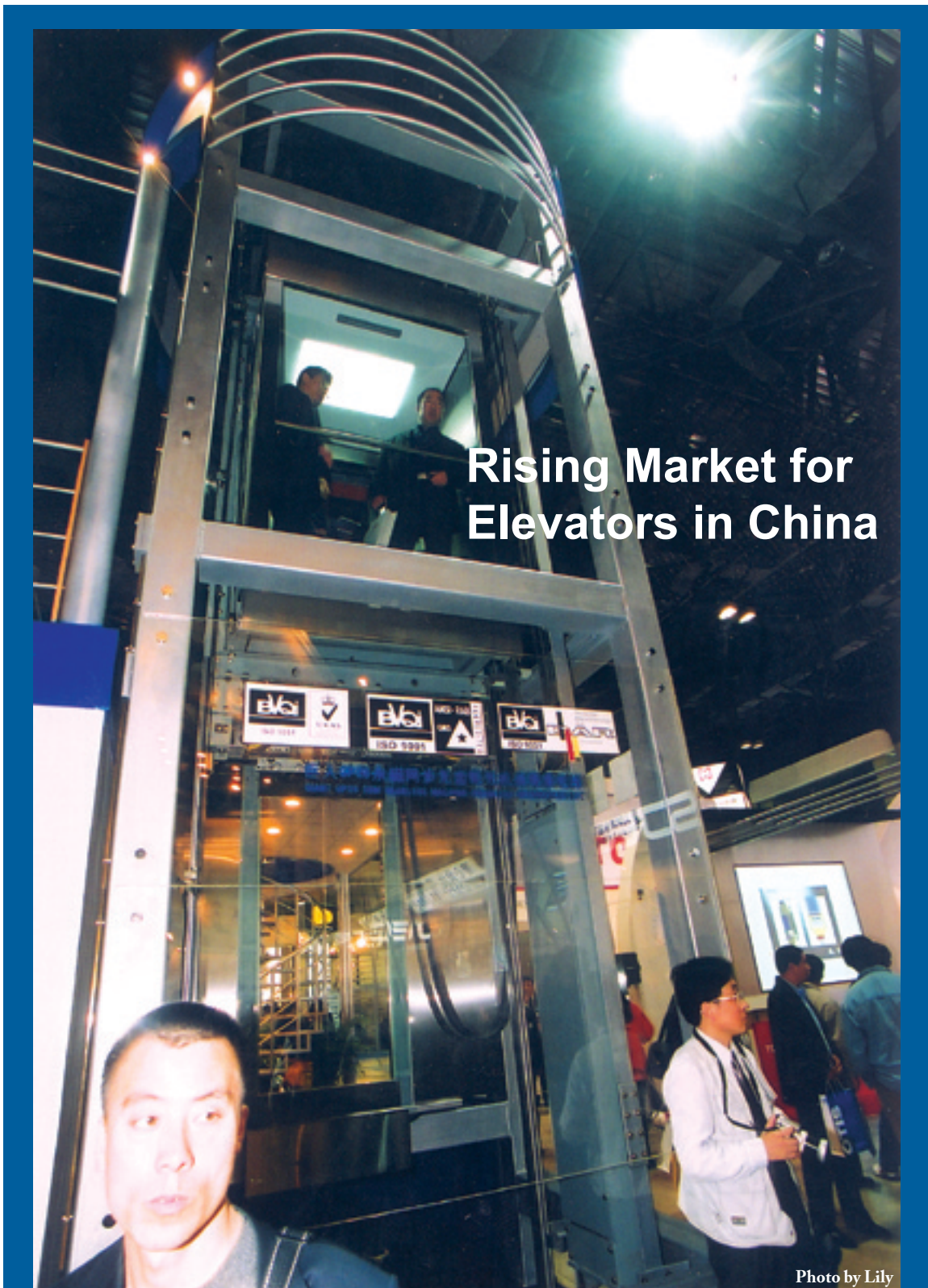
For communication and information exchanges, the organizers supply a European style Plaza at the exhibition. Anyone can post his or her initiative for cooperation, technical forum and seminars on boards. "It is really informative. I didn't realize an exhibition can be held this way," says one young Chinese visitor. "It's more like an academic workshop. You can easily talk with anyone here and make acquaintances."

Hao Jianmin, vice president of Ericsson (China), says the exhibi-

tion is a chance for exhibitors to see China's IT and telecommunications industries and find opportunities for cooperation.

The Euro-China Co-operation Forum on the Information Society was also launched Monday, the same day as the exhibition opened.

China and EU agreed to collaborate on mobile communications products and technologies, further open their high-technology plans to each other, widen exchange of scientific policies and push co-operation for innovation in small firms.



## Rising Market for Elevators in China

Photo by Lily

By Zhao Hongyi

China needs at least 800,000 new elevators in the "next few years" according to analysts. Another 60,000 a year will be needed as replacements as the real estate industry in China swells 20 percent a year.

Manufacturers from the USA, Germany, Japan, Canada, France Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Finland, UK and Singapore present their latest products, components and technologies at the Fifth Exhibition of China International Elevator Equip-

ment and Technology - "China World Elevator Expo 2002" - at the Beijing Exhibition Center.

More than 40 brands came including Otis, Schindler, Mitsubishi, Hitachi, Toshiba, Fujitec, Sigma, and domestic ones including Jiangnan, Giant and Best.

The exhibition, which lasts until Saturday, attracts visitors from Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, CIS countries, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, Iran and Malaysia.

## TV Tech Company Focusing on China

By Su Wei

Irdeto Access Technology (Beijing) Co., Ltd.'s operation of four new labs and one smart card center in Beijing has proven the company's position as the first foreign conditional access system supplier in the Chinese market.

Irdeto Access, a subsidiary of MIH Limited, a Holland international television, Internet and interactive technology group, has 17 customers in China, spanning from Shenyang to Hainan.

"We believe that China will not only become the world's set-top box industry center but also the world's DVT lab center," said Thierry Raymaekers, General Manager of Irdeto Access North Asia.

Raymaekers is confident that within two to three years, pay-per-view TV will become very popular in China. He said, "We are looking to the future through TVs not computers." He believes that by 2008, TVs will be totally different from what they look like today.

## Sony Gallery Opens in Capital City

By Zhu Lin

Sony (China) opened Sony Gallery at Hailong Center, Zhongguancun. Aimed at showing the lifestyle in the digital century, the gallery exhibits the company's digital and electronic products.

Six kinds of products are displayed in the gallery, divided into the Network Style, VAIO Style, Private Style, Home AiVt Style, Business Style and Mobile style.

"We hope to offer the Chinese consumers the best products and service," said Ietsugu Kusano, Vice President of Consumer Sales and Marketing Dept. of Sony (China) on its opening ceremony on April 14.

## Deloitte Consulting CEO Charged about China Market

By Zhao Hongyi

At a lecture delivered to hundreds of students at Tsinghua University on April 16, Douglas M. McCracken, chief executive officer of Deloitte Consulting, one of the world's leading consulting firms providing customers worldwide with strategic advice and operational suggestions, said "We strongly believe China is the fastest growing consulting market in the world."

He continued, "Financial services, the public sector, telecommunications and manufacturing are expected to be the largest purchasers of consulting services."

In China, the main users of consulting services are the manufacturing, retail, wholesale and food service sectors, and demand for these services in growing in the energy, construction and rail transportation industries.

Deloitte Consulting and Deloitte & Touche LLP are the two major arms of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, a global provider of assurance and advisory, tax, and consulting services.

## Handelsblatt Invites Ads

By Zhao Hongyi

The Handelsblatt Publishing Group staged a promotion in Beijing yesterday. The group owns Handelsblatt, a financial daily paper, and VDI nachrichten, a technical, commercial and social paper, both in Germany.

"We have been in China for a decade and has been the most authoritative news source about China in Germany," said Markus Gartner, chief correspondent of Handelsblatt in Beijing.

More than 50 representatives from China's media and industries attended the presentation.



Photo by Xiao Yang

## Beijing Today Supports Expat Business

By Yang Xiao

Last Thursday, *Beijing Today*, riding its increasing popularity among expat businessmen, sponsored a forum on venture capital investment held by Landl Asia. Over 120

businesspeople from the IT and finance fields gathered at the Kerry Center Hotel to take part in the forum. Photo: Helmut Struss of Siemens Mobile Acceleration giving a presentation.



# Volunteers Compete for World Cup Places



Elena Avanzo takes the test  
Photo by Qu Liyan

By Sun Ming

One-hundred-and-thirty volunteer translators on Sunday took language tests to assist in compiling foreign news reports for the World Cup 2002 in *Beijing Youth Daily*.

Twenty examiners from 12 countries including teachers, businessmen and diplomats living in Beijing were invited to help select volunteers.

The volunteers speak English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic, Serbian, Polish, Japanese, Korean and Turkish. They competed for 32 positions provided by *Beijing Youth Daily* which will publish daily special issues during the World Cup.

Eighty percent of the volunteers were college students, according to the newspaper. They will translate World Cup news reports from co-operating foreign news outlets.

"Their English is so good that I can hardly

eliminate any one of them," said Canadian examiner Mark Adrien Beaudry, a linkman for the "Modern English" Beijing TV show. He said they were also "very familiar with football".

Beaudry said most questions related to football.

"I asked them 'Are you interested in football? Can you offer some comments on the Chinese men's team?'"

Of the 130 examinees, 128 were Chinese. Park Zonghwa, a South Korean student at Beijing Film Academy and Elena Avanzo, an Italian studying Chinese at Beijing Culture & Language University, were tested in Chinese.

"Have you recently read some impressive novels?" asked in Chinese the South Korean examiner Ahn Yonghoo, chief representative of the South Korea National Tourism Organization in Beijing.

Zhang Xin, a student who studies Japanese at Beijing Foreign Language University didn't want to leave when the tests finished.

"I'm a football fan. It's the first time that China has entered the World Cup and so I'm thirsty for the opportunity," Zhang told a *Beijing Youth Daily* reporter.

"I think it must be a very interesting work," said 11-year-old Sun Mengdi. Mengdi has spent five years in Tokyo with her parents.

Examiner Michael Heller of the German embassy said he was amazed the media can find so many volunteers who speak different foreign languages within one week. The newspaper published the "help wanted" ad on April 7.

"In Germany, it couldn't be done so quickly even if we just wanted to find 10 people who can speak Polish and Czech. So Chinese people have the talent for language learning, I think."

## Angry Dog Owners Bite Back, Beat up Young Policemen

By Su Wei

A married couple and their 18-year-old son face prison sentences after thrashing a policeman who tried to snatch their dog.

Officer Peng Xuan reportedly suffered concussion, with bruises to his left eye and scratches to the outer layer of his cornea in the fight last Wednesday.

Police said a second dog owner had sparked the kerfuffle, knocking to the ground one of three officers involved. Officer Gao Yuan later reported sick, suffering abdominal pains.

The suspect, whom police would only identify as "a Beijing man in his early 50s", was also being held. He will be released within a week, said Wu Wei, political commissar of Dongzhimen local police station.

The entire family – a government cadre, a key middle school teacher and their middle school student son – were still being held in criminal detention after one week at the Dongcheng Branch Police Station last night.

A Dongzhimen Police spokesman said the officers had been conducting a "routine patrol" in Xinzhongjie Xili neighborhood when they met Mr. Li, a cadre of Dongcheng Personnel Bureau and his wife, Mrs. He, a teacher of the Beijing No. 5 Middle School. The couple were walking their Pekinese and a second man was walking his Pomeranian.

They were told to come and register their dogs at the station by police station deputy chief Li Rui and officers Peng Xuan and Gao Yuan. The couple refused to cooperate and a violent struggle broke out when officers tried to grab the dogs, according to the *Star Daily*.

Snatching unregistered dogs only punishes the dogs – not the owners – said a city animal welfare organiza-

tion spokeswoman.

"The dogs have done nothing wrong and should not be harmed in any way from an animal welfare point of view," said Wendy Guan, International Fund for Animal Welfare Beijing spokeswoman.

The dogs are being held at the Supervision Station for Exile in Changping district.

Police Bureau Political Department director Mrs. Chai refused to give her full name or release further information to *Beijing Today*.

"A cadre, a teacher and a student graduating this year! We have a lot of pressure on this one," she said. "We have to cooperate with other local government offices."

Wu also refused, but added the men were "only doing their duty."

Peng and Gao, he said, had "kept cool" and their actions were "based on law."

But he predicted more trouble brewing.

"Beijingers are required to register dogs in the first three days of May," said Wu.

IFAW spokeswoman Guan agreed.

"When the police make it their duty to enforce the regulations," she responded via e-mail, "they often find themselves in fights and quarrels with those who neither want to pay the high registration fee nor let the police take away the unregistered dog that has become an inseparable part of the family."

An official source who requested anonymity said the Beijing Dog Raising Office is now considering cutting the 5,000 yuan registration fee.

"It would become effective next year," she said. "But there are still many people who do not like dogs."

"The new regulation must be discussed and passed by the Beijing Municipal People's Congress."



## Loopy World Record for City

By Sun Ming / Feng Yihua

A Fengtai District school believes it skipped its way to a new world record on Saturday. One hundred and forty two students whirled 71 15-meter skipping ropes at Sanluju Primary School.

Kang Qi, 12, jumped – 135 times.

"We want to create a new Guinness World Record," said principal Han Shuqiang, "You know, there has never been such a kind of record in the Guinness World Record Book before."

The activity is the brainchild of 65-year-old PT instructor Wang Shouzhong. He has studied rope

skipping for 37 years. Under his direction in 1995, 132 students and teachers of the school circled 66 ropes for student Wang Fu to jump 78 times in 1995.

"We have contacted the China headquarters of the Guinness World Records in Shanghai," Wang told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

"They think it's interesting and asked us to send the videotape of the activity as soon as possible. Just few minutes ago, I was informed that our videotape was received by them this morning."

Photo by Xie Dongguang

## Top Secret Luxury Wedding Tomorrow

By Sun Ming

The most luxurious, most secret open wedding in Beijing history will be held in the city tomorrow, according to a wedding company.

The motorcade will pass by Changan Avenue, said wedding organizer Tan Jun, also manager of the Beijing Jinyuangu Wedding Company.

But Tan declined to name names.

"We should keep the secret for them," he told *Beijing Today*. "What I can tell you is that they are doing little business in Beijing."

The wedding party will use 28 Mercedes-Benzes and a 12-meter-long Lincoln limo, said Tan. Fresh flowers will decorate the cars at a total cost of more than 100,000 yuan.

"The couple has ordered 18 tables for their banquet. Each costs 3,800 yuan and serves 12 people," said Tan.



Models showcase wedding dresses at a Wangfujing store

Ma Longxiang, a 39-year-old professional wedding reception compere, has presided over 542 weddings in 10 years.

"They want to tell their friends or relatives 'I live better than you.' through a luxurious wedding," Ma told *Beijing Today*.

"The living rhythm of the city is much quicker than before, and so people haven't many opportunities to meet each other. Beijingers are peacockish. A wedding is a good opportunity to show themselves off in public."

Eighty thousand couples are married each year in Beijing. Among them, 5,000 couples ask wedding companies to hold their weddings, according to *Beijing Morning Post*.

## University Tests Foreign Students in Chinese

By Chen Huiying

The competition for places at Beijing University among foreign students grows fiercer. Five-hundred-and-fifty foreign students sat for two days in eight examination rooms in the No. 3 Teaching Building.

Last year, 178 out of the 370 candidates entered Beijing University. This year's enrollment will not change despite the increased interest.

The exams consist of Chinese and English tests, Chinese history and world history for all arts applicants and mathematics for applicants in science and economics.

Beijing University designs the questions and requires all answers be written in Chinese, except of course for the English exam. Pinyin is also accepted as a substitute.

According to the examiners, some examinees used pinyin 30-40 times in a 600-word essay. The Chinese exam included questions such as error-correcting, reading comprehension and composition. Examiners said examinees who answered "My Wish" mainly suggested world peace and environmental conservation.

Most students come from Japan and South Korea, but more students are coming to study from the USA, Europe and Africa.

To prepare, some candidates studied at Beijing's high schools including Huiwen High School and No. 55 Middle School. Some attended Beijing University's short-term Chinese enhancement programs.

## Plantings across Town

By Shan Jinliang / Jiao Pei

City officials and children have been busy planting trees across the city.

First up the Marco Polo Bridge: a group of about 50 Japanese officials planted about 2,300 trees in the Sino-Japanese Friendship Woods on the south bank of the Yongding River on Saturday.

The woods stand opposite the infamous bridge once employed by the Japanese Imperial Army to begin its war to conquer China on July 7, 1937. Shuichiro Megata, Minister for Economic Affairs of the Japanese Embassy in Beijing, Noboru Sugiura, chairman of the Japanese Association and Kiyoshi Asano, director of the Afforestation Commission under the association, attended.

The Capital Greenification Commission, Fengtai District government and the Japanese Association in Beijing organized this activity.

Meanwhile over at Miyun Reservoir, the China Environmental Protection Fund and *Beijing Youth Daily* organized 600 primary school students and delegates from city businesses to plant 500 trees last week. The Scitech Hotel paid for the trees.

## Quick Death Sentence for Saw Sex Attacker



By Sun Ming

Brutal saw attacker Qi Jun was sentenced to death by Fushun Intermediate People's Court on Tuesday. No information was released about the execution.

The court declined Qi's request for a psychiatric evaluation and also ordered him to pay 92,482 yuan to the 14-year-old victim of his March 12 attack, reported in last week's *Beijing Today*.

The victim, using the public pseudonym "Xiao Lan", and her family members didn't appear in court. The parents of Qi Jun also did not appear.



Peking University President Xu Zhihong hands it over to Broers

Photo by Wang Tiantian

## Cambridge Man Climbs Walls

By Cindy Lee

A Cambridge University vice-chancellor popped by Peking University for a cuppa and to pick up an honorary degree last week.

Afternoon tea, said Sir Alec Broers, is an important tradition in Cambridge. "It could be a serious academic topic," he told Beijing University President Xu Zhihong on a CCTV talkshow last Thursday.

Sipping green tea from a fancy porcelain cup, Broers suggested cha acts as a catalyst to the creative and intellectual freedom that has earned his alma mater more than 60 Nobel Prize winners.

"How about we have afternoon tea every day in the future?" replied Peking professor Zhao Weiming.

Broers on Friday morning was bestowed an honorary doctorate of philosophy where

he addressed Peking University students on "the new millennium". He met Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, a Tsinghua graduate, in the afternoon.

One student asked Broers whether he had been a good student at university. Thirty years ago, he said, Cambridge students had to be back on campus before sunset.

"I was quite good at climbing high walls," he said. (See Page 6)

Foreign Affairs



# Hero Stranded in Financial Well

## Doers of good deeds deserve more legal, public support

By Lu Yanhua/Chen Ying

March 21, the People's Court of Chang'an County of Shanxi Province passed a verdict on a case in which a good Samaritan had sued a person whose life he saved for compensation to pay for surgery needed to treat injuries he sustained during the heroic act.

The defendant, Ren Fuhong, a farmer from Chang'an County, was ordered to give the plaintiff, Wang Zhengle, 18,000 yuan in compensation to cover the costs of treatment of his injuries. The court decided the other defendants in the case, the county government and the village committee, needn't give Wang compensation.

Wang, however, was not satisfied with the verdict, and appealed the case to Xi'an Intermediate Court.

In the morning of October 7, 2000, Ren Fuhong fell down a well while planting wheat seed. Wang Zhengle, Wang Yujie and Liu Shengli, other residents of Ren's village, eventually heard his cries and rushed to the well. Wang Zhengle descended into the well to save Ren, while the other two men held the rope tied to Wang's waist.

The rope was so slippery that Wang Yujie and Liu Shengli lost their grip, and Wang suddenly plunged 12 meters to the bottom of the well. Wang was injured in the fall, but fought through the pain to tie the rope around Ren. Both men were finally pulled from the well and immediately sent to the hospital.

The hospital's examination showed Wang's had suffered a compound fracture of his left leg. Wang underwent surgery, in which about ten centimeters of nerves in the leg were cut. After the surgery, his calf muscle deteriorated consistently, leaving Wang disabled and only able to walk with the help of two crutches. Complete treatment of Wang's injury required two surgeries to the tune of nearly 150,000 yuan.

Wang had to leave the hospital because he couldn't afford the costs.

Ren's family was very grateful to Wang, and put 8,000 yuan towards his treatment, after paying another 20,000 yuan for the treatment of injuries Ren suffered from his fall.

The 8,000 yuan was all the family could afford to offer.

Later, representatives of Guodu Town and the Chang'an County government visited Wang and gave him a total contribution of 17,000 yuan, far short of the sum needed for his treatment.

Wang then visited the office of a foundation in the county he heard supported people who do good deeds. However, an official from the foundation told him only people who had struggled against criminals were qualified to receive such funds.

Although Wang paid many visits to different government offices, he found no solution to his problem, leaving him with no alternative but to sue Ren. The lawsuit was filed on September 28, 2001.

How to support people who are injured or die while committing heroic acts, and their families, has become a hot topic. Opinions follow:

### Wang Zhengle

The person I saved has no money, and the government ignored me in the end. Do I deserve such bad luck? Is it wrong to save others?



Wang Zhengle stands in front of the well from which he saved Ren Fuhong and broke his leg Photo by Wang Li

Only if there is legal protection will more people be willing to help others. We shouldn't let heroes bleed in vain.

### Spokesman for the foundation in Chang'an County

Wang Zhengle came to our office for help, and after hearing his story, we really sympathized with his plight. However, helping him fell outside of our foundation's operating area.

The foundation was set up in 1998 to encourage and compensate people who protect public security and fight against crime. Wang's act was more of a good deed, so we gave him 1,000 yuan at that time.

### Yang Tuan, director, Social Policy Institute of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

To me, true heroism (Chinese) means a person is willing to help others at risk to him/her, just as Wang did in this case. Though there were many other people at the scene, only Wang went down the well to save the person's life.

Society has the duty of helping Wang. The village should have made efforts to raise money for him.

If it couldn't raise that much, the village could have sought help from other social organizations, such as all kinds of foundations in the county and even the country. And the hospital where Wang would receive the surgery should reduce the costs of the operations to make them feasible.

I'd like to add that I hope farmers become more aware of the necessity of insurance. The situation would be much better if Wang was insured.

Society should effectively solve problems like Wang's. Failure to find reasonable solutions will only cause new problems. Society should develop ways to handle similar accidents, such as through the development of non-profit organizations and charities.

### Zhao Qun, professor, China University of Political Science & Law

According to the 93rd item and the 132nd item of the Civil Law, which regard acts taken to save or assist others, the doer of a good deed has the right to require the beneficiary to pay necessary charges if there aren't any obligations or stipulations between them.

So, Wang has the right to demand compensation from Ren. But nothing can be done if neither party has any money. There isn't any special law covering heroic acts.

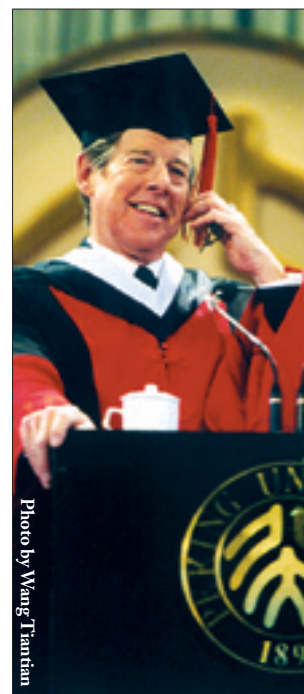
### A white collar worker who requested anonymity

I realized heroism can be really dangerous after I heard Wang's story.

He saved another person's life at risk to his own. Then he became handicapped. But there are no ways to compensate or help him. Who will dare help others in the future?

The government should make laws as soon as possible to deal with the expenses and treatment of people injured while helping others and sustaining heroes and their families when they're disabled or die.

Only if there is legal protection will more people be willing to help others. We shouldn't let heroes bleed in vain.



Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University Sir Alec Broers gave the following speech to Peking University students last Friday.

Cambridge University and Chinese universities have had fruitful and creative contact now for more than a century.

Cambridge first incorporated Chinese into its teaching program over a century ago, in the late 19th century. From early this century too, Chinese students and students from East Asia came to Cambridge and studied both humanities and sciences.

Some of the scholars and men of letters and scientists who studied in Cambridge are now household names. One, a major lyric poet, Xu Zhimo, even wrote some celebrated verses about Cambridge, the River Cam and its bridges. In doing so, I believe, he secured a major bonus for my institution: he ensured that every Chinese schoolchild has a lyrical image of the River Cam and the ancient buildings, the Libraries, chapels and courts that line its eastern bank.

Many traditional Chinese educational ideals, formulated by your philosophers early in your history, are ones that we are concerned with and strive for today. For example, the ideal that no one should be denied education for reasons of poverty, or that education should be open, and that it should not be available on the basis of social categories.

That long tradition of respect for education has its expression today in the fine reputation that Chinese students have not only in my own institution but also across the western world.

In science, research, to be effective, has to be on a larger scale than ever before and it is much more expensive. Even in the 1950s and 1960s, leading universities were able to build accelerators for research in particle physics. But soon after this, apparatus for particle physics became too complex and expensive even for national projects.

Universities, therefore, can no longer conduct first class research independently using primitive equipment and brilliant ideas. There is a range of models for funding in scientific research. At one extreme, there is research that is funded and directed solely by a university. Yet most universities have scant resources for this kind of research, and it may have the disadvantage that, if applicable ideas emerge, transfer to the industrial or business sector may be difficult.

This full range of different arrangements is needed to sustain the full creative potential of universities. But universities have important commitments that they need to safeguard in any arrangement that they enter. They must, in order to preserve intellectual freedom, ensure that the aims of an industrial supporter are genuinely in pursuit of research, rather than, say, the development of new products for the market.

Academics also need to step away from their research to fulfil the teaching and examining commitments that are essen-

tial to their profession. They must insist that their partners show willingness to share and to allow the rapid publication of results. They must insist on free discussion, for example among research students, no matter who is involved as sponsor or collaborator.

There is also another major factor that underlies any vibrant and creative research environment, whether it is in the sciences or in the humanities. This is that a major international university must be open in its selection and appointments at all levels of its operation.

Our student numbers are increasing as more and more young people respond to the growing openness and importance of China in today's world. In the past four years, we have established an East Asia Institute, comprised of China, Korea and Japan Centers, with the China Research Center at its core. The East Asia Institute coordinates the university's programs relating to China. It has held four annual conferences on Chinese Commercial Law and this year will hold the fifth. Cambridge sends four noted scholars a year to China to lecture at many different universities, ranging from Beijing to Kunming, from Guangzhou to Xian. Each year, we welcome many Chinese delegations from government and non-government organizations and also universities.

We aim to increase our provision for teaching Chinese language, culture and history. China's accession to the WTO creates both opportunities and problems for China. Our teaching and research program now combines the study of China's cultural heritage with a new and modern focus examining the Chinese economy and the new Chinese legal system.

We are training young British and European professionals, lawyers, political scientists and managers in the Chinese language and in Chinese economics, law and politics. The students spend nine months of their course at Peking University. We hope that the training they receive at Cambridge and Peking University will help them to understand China more and equip them to build careers and to work effectively in the Chinese environment.

I would like to end by quoting a line from one of China's ancient classics that expresses my belief that ancient institutions and ancient cultures may draw from great strengths to confront new challenges. This line referred originally to the Zhou Dynasty and it expresses the idea that, although countries and institutions may be ancient, the task they face today is new, challenging and exciting. This line, which is at least two and a half millennia old, may be applied both to the Cambridge and the China of today, and expresses my hope that we may work together in the years to come. It is "though Zhou is an ancient state, its mandate is new".

### SOUND BITES

"The rate of construction of sewage treatment plants in China lags far behind market demand because most plants are built and managed by governments that still follow the planned economic system. My plant sets a new model for the development of sewage treatment across China."

— Xu Guodong, general manager of China's first sewage treatment plant to operate in the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) mode, built in Beijing

"It is time to remind Sharon that the Star of David belongs to all Jews and not just to his repulsive government. His actions are staining the Star of David with blood."

— Gerald Kaufman, veteran Labor MP and Britain's most prominent Jewish parliamentarian, expressing fears about the Israeli army's behavior at a Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin in the West Bank

"We are shocked by how the EU is preparing to trample over its claims to be in

favor of sustainable development in the naked pursuit of the interests of European multinational service corporations. These documents confirm our worst fears. The EU is targeting sectors where there is no evidence that liberalization benefits developing countries."

— Dave Timms from the World Development Movement on secret documents revealing the EU's tough stance on global trade

By Chen Ying



Less emphasis on professional improvement for those studying in Japan

Among those who studied in Europe and America, seeking professional improvement was the most important reason for studying overseas (85%), followed by learning advanced science and technology (47%), obtaining a higher degree (21%), and experiencing an exotic culture (20%).

In contrast, for those who studied in Japan, the figures were seeking professional improvement (76%), followed by learning advanced science and technology (11%), obtaining a higher degree (5%) and experiencing an exotic culture (2%).

The lower numbers choosing Japan for professional and academic improvement is due mainly to a perception that Europe and America are more advanced in science and technology.

The popularity of English in China is also a factor. English speakers have more study options in English speaking countries such as the United States and Australia.

In contrast, those who learn Japanese as a second language have fewer opportunities, as Japanese is a less widely spoken language. Japanese invested companies in China are mainly located in large cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen and Chengdu.

Furthermore, the similarities between Japan and China would be a disincentive to those seeking to experience an "exotic culture".

Most return to former place of employment

Almost 54% of those who studied overseas returned or intend to return to their former place of employment, regardless of where they studied.

This is largely due to the fact that a majority of the surveyed did not fund their overseas tuition themselves. Instead their enterprises covered

most of their overseas expenses, including a part of their living expenses.

Doing so is usually on the condition that the employee will return after completing their study.

Furthermore, the enterprises often promise larger living areas, higher salaries, more senior positions and better working conditions, as well as arranging employment for their family members and education for their children.

Also many people feel their achievements are more likely to be recognised if they return to their former place of employment.

Nearly 24% of those studying in Japan said their first priority was to work in a city with strong international ties, almost twice as many as those in Europe and America.

This could be due to the fact that the relatively small number and size of Japanese invested companies in China has resulted in fewer opportunities for people to transfer from one company to another.

Even among the invested Japanese enterprises, few Chinese have the opportunity to be promoted to senior management positions.

Workplace issues hinder ability to make contributions

37% of the total surveyed say the main difficulty for them in terms of making significant achievements after completing their study is a lack of funds and equipment, while 21% attributed the difficulty to their current job having nothing to

Overseas Study Not the Answer for All



More than 300,000 Chinese have studied overseas since the early 1980s. The average number of Chinese going overseas to study every year is almost 25,000.

A three-year research project tracked 1,045 Chinese who studied abroad.

5% of those who studied in Japan, Europe and America said they experienced a decrease in confidence after completing their studies.

do with their area of study. Difficulty in accessing information (15%) and workplace relations (10%) also rated mentions.

Workplace relations may be the most fundamental issues in China where "guangxi", or personal relations are still regarded as a key to getting ahead, despite the increasing emphasis being placed on individual capabilities.

Some people, although capable, fail to get on well with their bosses or colleagues, so are less likely to have their talents recognised and may be assigned to minor jobs or jobs irrelevant to their field of expertise.

Overseas study results in weakened confidence for some

5% of those who studied in Japan, Europe and America said they experienced a decrease in confidence after completing their studies.

One reason is that such people usually lead a reasonably comfortable domestic life and are respected before leaving to study overseas.

But when they arrive in a strange city, they are unable to keep up with the rapidly changing life.

They are more likely to lose their equilibrium in front of those they see as being better qualified. However, when they return to China, they may also find they are no longer accustomed to domestic life here.

Zhang, who studied in America and has worked for nearly five years since returning, says her tolerance was at an all time low when she came back.

"The money seems not so

valuable. The living area is large but the household appliances are not so advanced. I have to struggle with others to take a bus to my office."

Money becomes more important

The awareness of the importance of money has risen from less than 71% before overseas study to 91% after coming back to China for those who have studied in Japan and in Europe and America.

It reveals that the importance of money has been highlighted through study overseas. Money is not such a necessity for them before they go overseas, for they usually have enough to keep themselves fed and clothed.

But once they are overseas, they have to support themselves. Therefore, they have to look for any opportunity to earn money.

"Having money means I can live," says Hu, another overseas student. For most students, it boils down to having enough to live or not, especially for those studying in Japan.

The difficulty in finding jobs in Japan has also brought more focus on money and competition. The overseas students find it almost impossible to find a job unless their tutors recommend them.

Meanwhile the Japanese government has set a regulation stipulating that overseas students must return home if they fail to find a job within one year after completing their study.

Japan is small geographically, but has a comparatively dense Chinese population. So the Chinese students there have to compete with each other to find work in order to support themselves.

The research is conducted by Japan's Tsukuba University and the Institute of Sociology under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

By Su Wei

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The tail section of Air China flight CA129 protrudes from the wreckage 15 April 2002. Rescue officials said at least 39 people survived after an Air China Boeing 767-200 carrying 155 passengers and 11 crew crashed while trying to land in poor weather near Pusan, South Korea's second largest city. AFP Photo/Dongailbo

# Air China Plane Crashes in Pusan



Rescue workers remove bodies recovered from the wreckage. Photo by Xinhua/AFP

**T**he crash of an Air China plane with 166 people on board Monday morning in the Republic of Korea ended the airline's perfect safety record.

Air China is China's flagship carrier and largest airline in terms of traffic volume. Until Monday, it had not suffered a fatal crash since its founding in 1988.

The death toll from the crash stands at 126, with 38 survivors, including the pilot, and two still unaccounted for, according to the South Korean Construction and Transportation Ministry. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

## April 15

China's aviation authorities confirmed Monday noon that a Chinese passenger aircraft had crashed near Pusan, in the Republic of Korea at around 10:40 Monday morning.

The Air China Boeing 767-200, flight number CA129, crashed into a mountainside near Pusan airport at 11:23 am local time in heavy rain and dense fog.

The plane carrying 155 passengers and 11 crew members took off from Beijing's Capital International Airport at 8:37 am Beijing time and was scheduled to land in Pusan about two hours later, sources at the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) said.

There were 135 Korean nationals on board, 19 Chinese and one Uzbek, as well as the 11 crew members, chief publicity official of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) Ma Songwei told Xinhua. The survivors were taken to five hospitals in Pusan and Gimhae for treatment.

Fires caused by the crash took four hours to extinguish, said a fire department official. Police, assisted by helicopters, were trying to rescue survivors but efforts were hampered by rain and poor road access. There were no reports of ground casualties.

Meanwhile, the "black box", a flight data recorder that can help investigators determine what caused the accident, was recovered from the wreckage.

In Beijing, the Chinese government expressed "heartfelt condolences" to all victims of the crash and extended sympathy and solicitude to their families.

ly members, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said.

Meanwhile all Seoul-bound flights from Beijing left according to schedule.

## April 16

A group of senior CAAC officials headed by Vice Director Bao Peide left Beijing for the Republic of Korea on Tuesday afternoon. The team would assist the emergency team that arrived in Pusan on Monday, sent by CAAC and Air China, to investigate the tragedy.

The pilot of the Air China plane, who survived the crash, told investigators he had experienced no mechanical problems before the disaster.

"He testified he felt nothing unusual with the aircraft," said a statement issued by the South Korean investigation group, which was composed of police, prosecutors and aviation experts.

The captain, Wu Xinlu, made the comment in his first interview with the South Korean authority in hospital, where he was under intensive care.

## April 17

More than 500 rescue workers combed the crash scene Wednesday for the two missing people.

With the identity of only six victims positively determined so far, search and rescue teams would use DNA testing to identify the dead wherever necessary, said the ministry.

A ten-member special investigation team, formed by U.S. Boeing, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, arrived in Pusan Wednesday morning to join in a probe into the cause of the accident, according to local reports.

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung Wednesday sent messages to Chinese leaders, expressing his condolences to the families of victims in the crash.

In his messages to President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji, Kim, on behalf of the South Korean people, expressed his profound condolences on the deaths of more than 100 passengers and his sympathy to the injured. (Xinhua)

# Helping People Live and Die Well

The aged population in China stands at 132 million, 10% of the total. The figure is increasing at an annual rate of 3.2%.

There are 329 organizations in Beijing accommodating over 21,000 elderly people. However, the average occupancy rate is only 46% with over 11,000 beds available. The low rate is due to high cost and inconvenient location.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs announced in 2001 that 100,000 nursing homes would be built in the next three years.



A U.S. delegate visits 88-year-old Zhang Jinzha with Hospice president Li Wei

By Ivy Zhang

**A**t the last moments of a patient's life, caretakers at Songtang Hospice are required to hold the dying one's hands and whisper farewell into their ears.

Songtang Hospice is located near the south gate of the Temple of Heaven in Chongwen district. Established in 1987, it is China's first hospice, housing 138 elderly patients. The average age for the female patients is 84 and that of the male patients, 79. There are 172 staff, among whom 23 are doctors, 31 nurses and 86 live-in care givers.

"Hospices are important in helping patients not only to die well, but to live as well as they can to the end of their natural life," says Kate Wyatt, and a Ph.D. psychologist from Texas who headed a delegation organized by People to People Ambassador Programs to visit hospitals and hospices in Beijing and Shanghai.

"It takes special people who need training in medicine or psychology. They also need a loving heart and faith to help them have the courage to comfort others, because all of us are afraid to die."

## Establishment of Songtang Hospice

Back in the 1960's, when president of the hospice Li Wei was a "barefoot doctor" in a rural area of Inner Mongolia, he took care of an old professor tortured by terminal stomach cancer.

On the day before he died, the old man who had been labeled as a rightist and banished from his home during the cultural revolution, said to Li, "I have been stripped of my identity as a human. They call me 'demon', 'serpent'...I don't know where I belong to, heaven or hell?"

Moved by the old man's sadness, Li told him a white lie the next day, saying that the authorities had agreed to "rehabilitate" him.

The professor smiled like a child at the news and shared many good mem-

ories with Li, before he passed away three hours later, a smile still on his face. His look touched Li so much that he decided to set up a place where old people suffering from serious illnesses could be provided with comfort and help.

Jiang Cuihua a 31-year-old caregiver from Sichuan Province, spoke to Beijing Today in the courtyard of the Hospice. She takes care of three elderly men in a ward. "I feed them, wash their clothes, chat with them, ..." says Jiang, "at first, I found it difficult to adjust. They are male and incontinent. As time passed however, I came to take them as my own grandfathers and developed a deep feeling with them. They are nice people and have a good sense of humor."

## Conquer the fear of death

Although 24% of the patients at Songtang Hospice are in favor of euthanasia, 40% have a deep fear of death, according to Li.

One day, Li was chatting with a 93-year-old patient sitting in his wheelchair enjoying the sun. "Suddenly, a question crossed my mind," Li says. "He was over 90 years old. As a doctor, I wanted to know his feelings about death."

He asked the man, "How many years do you think you'll live, Grandpa?"

For the old man, it was an extremely confronting question. "A fearful look came into his eyes. He stared at me and then suddenly yelled with all his strength, 'I'll live a thousand years!'"

"In such cases, it's hard to give effective care," Li says. Out of 12,000 patients who have spent their last days at Songtang Hospice in the past decade, 93% have no religion. In China, most people nearing the end of their lives see death as the ultimate termination.

Therefore, helping terminally ill patients ease their fear of death is a major part of the work for China's hospice psychologists.



Nie Yunhua, 93, from Hebei province, broke her leg at home and was sent to live in the hospice in November 2001. Photos by Zhuang Jian





Some of the works in Wang's exhibition

# It's Just a Job

By Shi Xinyu

**A** tall and solid man with a disarming grin, Wang Shengyin looks younger than a 38-year-old should. The cropped hair, casual dress and single helix earring dangling from his left ear are a give-away, but being an artist is just a job, he says.

Wang's six-day exhibition of abstract paintings and metallic installation works has just concluded at Beijing's Crowne Plaza Hotel Gallery. The "work output", Wang's preferred term for the exhibits, rather than "works of art", were selected from the three hundred odd pieces he has created in the last three years, after a twelve-year hiatus.

## A boy dreaming of becoming a great master

As a schoolboy, Wang's dream was to be an artist; specifically, a great master of painting. At the age of six, when he began to learn painting at the Dongcheng District Children's Palace, Wang fell in love with this way of expressing himself "more effectively than speaking and writing" and he devoted all his time after school to learn and practice painting skills.

The second youngest in a family of five kids living on a total monthly income of less than one hundred yuan, Wang was a considerate boy. In order to save money, he did more pencil sketches than paints, though he actually longed for the latter, because pencils are much cheaper than colors. At Spring Festival, when his parents bought new clothes for the other kids, Wang begged for a box of paints instead. "At that time, I had few friends," recalls Wang. "Maybe because I did not care much about my appearance and forever wore my brothers', sometimes my sisters', old cast-offs. Most of them were too large for me and I always had to roll up the sleeves and trousers."

Since the age of 11, Wang managed to earn pocket money for himself. His first odd job was painting silk kites. Two kites meant one yuan and four or five nights of sitting up till after midnight. This job lasted nearly a year, and by the end of the first summer vacation of secondary school, Wang had saved almost fifty yuan in small change. "I indulged myself in painting with colors all summer. I felt I was the most fortunate kid in the world," he says.

Wang's school life ended at the age of seventeen and he spent the following year painting and thinking about whether to apply for admission to art school or get a job.

"Every day of the year was in the sun," Wang says. Every morning before seven o'clock, he set off from his home at Dongdan on the one-and-a-half hour bicycle ride to



Wang's favorite place at home, where he often loses himself in thought

Yuanmingyuan (the Garden of Gardens), in Haidian District, with his sketchbook on one shoulder and twenty cents for lunch in his pocket. He would spend the whole day sketching, buying a piece of steamed bread and some pickles for only five cents for lunch, leaving the other 15 cents as a secret saving for painting materials.

This lasted for about eight months, until he developed a perpetual nosebleed. When his worried parents took him to the hospital, the doctor said it was the result of a severe vitamin deficiency. "I was roundly scolded and the twenty cents was substituted for a heat-preserving lunch box after I recovered." Disappointment is still evident in Wang's voice as he recounts this experience.

## Experience is also education

Instead of applying to an art school, 18-year-old Wang chose to get a job. "I did not want to become a burden on the family," he explains.

The first job was to load various daily newspapers from the Beijing Railway Station post office onto trains between five-thirty and nine-thirty in the morning. Wang was quite satisfied with this job because he had enough time to paint. But six months later, he was obliged to "escape" when he was told he would be made a regular worker due to

his excellence. "That meant welfare entitlements and other perks," Wang says, "but it also meant staying in the office till six every evening. That would have been terrible!"

After staying at home for another couple of months, Wang set out to the south of China as an assistant art designer in 1983 with a shooting group for *Journey to the West*, a TV drama series based on the popular classic. "It was like working in heaven," Wang says, unable to contain his excitement even now, "Most of the temples and palaces were polystyrene sets. But they were so vividly painted, no one would doubt that they really existed!" Three years of this work fed Wang's imagination, as well as giving him a solid knowledge of the use of color in ancient Chinese buildings and traditional folk handcrafts.

This dream job came to an end eventually and Wang returned to Beijing as an unemployed 22-year-old. His next job was as a salesman at a clothing store in Wangfujing. Every morning before opening time when Wang looked toward the street from behind his counter, the first thing he saw was always the iron door. "I felt I was in prison, both my body and my mind," he recalls.

"Weird", "decadent" and "despairing" are the words he uses to describe his small output of paintings from that period. About six months later, Wang suffered a nervous break-



Dad's sweet-talking fails to elicit a smile

Photos by Zhuang Jian

down and attempted to commit suicide. He survived however, and resigned from his job. He also stopped painting.

## Blending paint with fire

The years following his recovery from the breakdown were filled with a long list of successful design projects, in fields as diverse as stage, music video, television drama, architecture and even horticulture. Wang enjoyed this busy life, getting used to one role only to exchange it for another and never settling down. Then one summer's day in 1998, 12 years after giving up painting, he had the sudden impulse to pick up a paintbrush again. "It is the right time to stop repeating and make a new beginning," he said to himself.

Wang hid himself away in his Seng Ying Studio in Changping District, in Beijing's northern outskirts. Three years later, he had completed more than 300 pieces. "The exhibited works are the ones painted or made after my son was born last February," Wang says.

After staying beside his wife during the eight hours she was in labor and witnessing the process of a new life coming into being, Wang felt a hitherto unknown emotion building up in his breast. He needed a new way to express this feeling. Half a year passed without a solution and he was becoming irritable. One stuffy summer's night, Wang poured gasoline on his recently painted works and burnt them out in the yard. As the fire roared into life, Wang's mind was also suddenly kindled: Fire, the essence of life!

All the exhibited painting works are made with fire and paint. "The unpredictable effects produced by fire on the canvas imply the uncertainty of life," explains Wang, "and I could not give names to those uncertainties. So all the exhibited works are unnamed."

Wang takes the exhibition as a summary of his work of the last three years. "I have some new plans in my mind," he says. "I am interested in the art essence of ancient Chinese architecture. It expresses the harmony of human nature and surrounding environments. And that is the ideal status in my coming labor."

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# Monsters Inhabit Hutong Store

By Salinda

When not busy as a comic artist or the lead singer of the band New Pants, this man collects and sells toys at his new shop.

Peng Lei today has more than 500 collectibles. Fa Tiao Guai Shou - Windup Monsters - opened off Dongsu at the west entrance to Qian Liang Hutong in November.

"I felt unsatisfied with the toys made here in mainland where the toy market is so nascent," says Peng.

"I decided to make my own toys for my own appreciation."

He has his own workshop in the store where he builds his own bizarre robot toys.

"Those toys are not for sale," he says.

Peng's passion is the driving force behind this unlikely store. The shop is clearly more than a simple commercial operation.

"My toyshop represents toy culture," he says. "That is embodied in collectible value."

Peng hopes his store, the first of its kind

in Beijing can combine collecting, commerce and toy culture.

"The monster toys that come from Hong Kong are very popular overseas," he says. "But in the mainland, few people bother with them, let alone collect them."

Iron toys from the 1930s and 1940s are the best items for collectors, says Peng.

"Some feeling for returning and meditating on the past are contained among the iron toys," he says.

Oldies like "Transformer" and "Superman" are here. The expensive "Spawn" is the prized toy of the moment in the rest of the world, says Peng, but interest in China so far seems limited. Figurines include "the Terminator". "Metallica" plays heavy metal. T-shirts, purses and cards are also available.

**Add:** Windup Monsters (发条怪兽), 33 Dongsu, Qian Liang Hutong (钱粮胡同), Dongcheng District.

**Open:** 12 noon-7pm.

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Deep Sea Robots



More home-made robots



Darth Maul smiles



Ari of Planet of the Apes readies to kiss a human being

Photos by Li Shuzhuan

# From Farm to Factory to Fortune

By Lydia

She left the fields of rural Anhui to come to the city and build a thriving small fashion corner with her own two hands.

Born in a Qianshan county village, Liu Xiaoyan, 22, by her own admission comes from a family of poor farmers. A cousin invited her to come to Beijing when she was 18 to do factory work. There she might more normally stay and then the story might end.

But Liu studied painting on cloth at a small city factory and it did not take her too long to realize she had a special talent.

Today her handpainted T-shirts and handkerchiefs are displayed and sold at White Art World, the Beijing Friendship Store and other major shopping centers in the city. But for a peasant girl to come good needs more than a rare artistic talent.

Having never finished high school, Liu when she came to the capital studied finance and accounting at a secondary specialized school. During those two years, Liu worked in the day and studied at night.

Liu's roommates at the factory came from all over the country including Hebei, Henan, Jiangsu, Shanxi and Anhui. Liu has the longest working history in Beijing and the best painting skill.

Liu's factory boss picked Liu to go to Beijing White Peacock Art World to manage a special counter. There she paints T-shirt for tourists all day. To communicate in English is a must for this job, and so Liu



Liu Xiaoyan models her wares

Photo by Wang Zhenlong

has also begun to study English and Japanese. She speaks both fairly well.

Today's Liu paints the Great Wall, pandas, dragons and flowers. "I paint my dream in every one of my works," says Liu.

It is said she now makes tens of thousands of hand-painted T-shirts and handkerchiefs each year with a real following among foreigners in the city.

**Add:** Third floor of White Peacock Art World, subway to Gu Lou Dajie (鼓楼大街), then walk west for 10 minutes, the white building is on the right beside the Forbidden City moat.

**Price:** 60-140 yuan. **Open:** 10:30am-6pm. **Tel:** 6201-1199.

Also: Second floor of Beijing Friendship Store and Beijing Arts and Crafts Central Store at Wangfujing Dajie.

# Handmade from West

By Lydia

A wanderer near the Sanlitun North Bar Street should not be surprised to stumble across an Islamic-style building with spectacular shop windows displaying strange shoes and west Asian clothing.

On hearing of Sa Shuang Xian Yi's opening, the owner Jia Yun says art collectors rushed to the store to buy original hand-made handicrafts from Xinjiang and Pakistan.

The handicrafts include Pakistani shoes, sleeveless garments, bronzeware, sofa cushions, Belgian tapestries, Siberian snow fox, horsewhips, dry snow lotus and fruits of Xinjiang.

Brightly colored Xinjiang plucked string instruments Dongbular and Tabuer hang from the ceiling. The pattern on the surface of the instruments are not painted, but formed by in-laid animal bone.

Best sellers now might be the strange and colorful Pakistani hand-made shoes, displayed in line at the store. "They are all made by the local people of Pakistan," says owner Jia Yun, "with no rules or fixed patterns - just according to their own imagination and creativity."

"We believe our shoes will soon be popular and set a



trend, especially in the coming summer. One day, don't be surprised when you see a person wearing them on the street," says Jia.

Perhaps a second or third such store will open nearby, just like several years ago when the capital's first Tibetan handicraft store opened.

**Add:** Sa Shuang Xian Yi (飒爽闲怡), walk along Sanlitun North Bar on the left side till you see the huge advertising board for "X Bar", and then turn left. The store is just between Hakka Restaurant and Sheng Lin Fu Restaurant.

**Price:** a little expensive as it is the first store of its kind in Beijing. 280-700 / per pair of shoes.

**Open:** 12 at noon-11:30pm, daily.

**Tel:** 6417-6355.



The store has nearly 500 shoes

Photo by Zhuang Jian

## Business Service 商务服务

PRE-MEDIA

PRE-MEDIA

北京旁美广告有限公司独家代理“商务服务”专版广告。我们的宗旨是为国内的商务服务及代理机构能够和外商公平、合理地开展合作，从中起到桥梁和纽带的作用。

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A man of 42, with 19 years working experiences in trade companies in Hong Kong and Europe, fluent English and Cantonese, good computer skill, is now applying for jobs as Senior Business Manager and etc.  
Tel: 67685016

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# Exploring Myth of Affordable Housing for Foreigners

*By Wang Dandan*

A reader suggested *Beijing Today* investigate affordable housing for foreigners in the city at the recently held Beijing Spring Housing Exhibition.

They sure liked to spend. The developers constructed elaborate and impressive models, their showpiece blueprints for future housing bliss.

They employed attractive models to introduce the properties and some sales were conducted on the spot. Houses featured in the exhibition covered nearly all types available in Beijing: villas, apartments, economy apartments and townhouses.

*Beijing Today* found most of the foreign-approved apartments in the center of town cost significantly more than Chinese. But on the plus side, they were better decorated, with better facilities and security guard systems.

The menu includes:

Gold Island Garden in Chaoyang District, Xibahe Nanlu No. 1, is one of the lower price apartment complexes in Beijing at about 8,000 yuan per square meter. Comprised of three residential towers, each 342 units, they all face south. The first and second floors are duplexes with private entrances and gardens. A health club, tennis court, swimming pool, bowling court, children's playground, restaurants, shopping arcade, underground car park are all available in this community.

Maple Garden in Jiuxianqiao Nanshiliju, Chaoyang District, is a little far from the center. At about 7,000 yuan per square meter, buyers can choose between two and three bedroom luxury apartments. Gym, tennis court, reading room, swimming pool, cafe, multi-functional room will also be provided. The project will be completed in September 2002.

Silver Maple Garden are newly built apartments, with three low-rise buildings comprising nine floors each. The price ranges from 8,000-10,000 yuan per square meter. The 399 units come in 87-183 square meters. The foreigner-friendly Lido Place restaurants and shops are close by.

Silver Lake Villas across the road has a



swimming pool, health club, sauna, library, coffee shop and mini-mart. Jinglong Hot Spring Apartments locates near the Jianguomen Junction and railway station. As the traffic rises to choking levels in the capital city, it's worth remembering this is an ideal public transportation location. Prices range from 10,000-12,000 yuan per square meter, a comparatively normal standard for the area.

All 154 units are designed and furnished. There is a wide choice: from studios with an open kitchen to three-bedroom luxury apartments. The apartments also provide house-keeping services, carpeted floors and safety deposit boxes.

City Plaza is a luxury all-in-one commercial, residential and recreational complex. The project consists of three 26-storey build-

ings, plus one office building and a shopping center. Located east of the Jing Guang Center, the JingTong Expressway accesses the Jianguomen commercial area. The agents offer spacious layout, large windows, good decoration and prices from 7,000-9,000 yuan per square meter. The decorated apartments come with wooden floors and sealed balconies with little dark windows.

*Beijing Today* suggests if foreigner buyers want the cheapest apartments, head for the suburbs of the city. The suburbs have less city infrastructure, less commercial atmosphere, and lower prices. Few foreign-approved suburban projects attended the exhibition and so the reporter failed to obtain first-hand information on the spot for this report. We will pursue the issue.

## Apartment Buyers Looking to Go Solo: Trend or Fad?

*By Wang Dandan*

Capital city apartments might be turning Tokyo tiny if the recent Beijing Spring Housing Exhibition is any indicator.

It seems in Beijing size matters as fully decorated mini apartment projects sold out fast. The 18-46 square meter "solo" apartments averaging 7,500 yuan per square meter drew instant attention. The 18-square-meter apartments all sold out - immediately.

**How big is 18 meters?**

Cat swinging is not an option. Wu Si, sales manager of Lujingyuan Garden, developers of the solo apartment, told *Beijing Today* the square space includes an open kitchen, a bathroom, living room and bedroom.

The apartment was named "solo", said Wu, to emphasize independence. This is a wise promotion if one realizes that the solo is little bigger than a large jail cell.

The apartment has an open kitchen. On the left stands a bathroom, no larger than 5 square meters. The bathroom has a bathtub and a dressing table.

To save space, the bathtub is taller than usual. This is said to be popular in Japan. On the right of the kitchen is a living

room/bedroom.

This space is the key convertible into living, dining and sleeping functions. The sofa-bed defines the room's identity. The long dining table near the sofa can entertain visitors.

**Why so popular?**

Even the developer didn't expect the popularity. "We just wanted to have a try," said Wu, "to see what the market would fetch for such a small apartment. We developed only 22 18-square meter apartments."

Within two hours of the opening of exhibition, all the apartments sold out. The developer also offered 29-46 square meter apartments and nearly a hundred were sold. "Of the buyers, most were people aged 25-30," said Wu.

**Mini apartment trend?**

Seemingly Beijing wants smaller apartments. But small apartments can't be the only trend. These apartments serve as a transitional apartment for buyers.

A buyer who buys a small apartment today can trade up for a larger apartment tomorrow. This phenomenon remains ungauged. Whether mini apartments are a fad or a real trend only time will tell.



Pictures by Xie Feng

## How to Obtain Your Foreign-Approved Apartment Certificate

*By Wang Dandan*

**Registration at Beijing Real Estate Bureau**

Within 30 days of signing the sales contract with the developer, both sides must go to Beijing Real Estate Bureau to register a "purchasing profile". Bring an ID card or passport.

**Letter from police security bureau**

If a buyer can't personally attend, he/she can sign an "entrustment letter" for someone to attend in their place and this letter must be notified by the local police security office.

If the buyer is a company or an organization, the buyer must also bring an operating licence and an entrustment letter from the board of the company.

The buyer must then pay a 0.5 percent "stamp fee", and the registration procedure is complete.

**Property rights transfer at center**

When transferring property rights, a buyer has to pay government fees.

The procedure runs as follows:

1. A buyer must bring an ID card or passport to the Beijing Real Estate Exchange Center
2. If he can't personally attend, sign an entrustment letter to someone and this letter must be notified by the local security office. If the buyer is a company or an organization, the buyer has to bring an operating licence and entrustment letter from the company board. Beijing Real Estate Exchange Center usually completes the transfer.
3. Both sides must bring "relevant" documents to the center to apply for the transfer of property rights.
4. The center will check the documents and ask for approval from Beijing Real Estate Bureau. If approved, the center will inform both sides (buyer and developer) to come to the center for the transfer procedure.
5. Both sides sign sales contracts with the center after payment procedure, tax and stamp fees.
6. The buyer then receives the sales contract for the apartment from the center. This contract is registered at Beijing Real Estate Bureau.
7. At the time the property rights are transferred, the buyer must pay tax, stamp fees and maintenance fees for public areas to the center.
8. After all the above procedures, both sides must bring the relevant documents including a sales receipt to Beijing Real Estate Bureau to obtain a property rights certificate.

## Billboard Revenue Belongs to Residents

*Dear editor:*

*I bought an apartment from a project in Chaoyang District a year ago. Recently I found the developer and property management company put a billboard advertising other products on the top of the building in which I live.*

*I just want to know if as an owner of an apartment in the building, do I have rights to share in the advertising income?*

*Regards,*

*Tom*

Dear Tom:

When you bought the apartment, your payment already included the price of shared space and buyers are part owners of public areas. The roof of the building is one of the shared areas and its property should be owned by all the owners of the apartments of the building.

When the developer puts the advertisement on the roof or paints an advertisement on the wall, it occupies the shared space and should receive all the owners' approval. The income should also be allocated to each owner.

**Shangri-La China Executive Plan**

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts offers the 'China Executive Plan', a room rate promotion with savings of up to 60 percent at 16 hotels across the country.

China Air Club, Sky Pearl Club and Golden Swallow Club Frequent Flyers can also earn mileage. The offer ends December 31. For reservations or information, [www.shangri-la.com](http://www.shangri-la.com)

**Weekend Delights at the Kerry Centre Hotel**

Promotional weekends at the Kerry Centre Hotel come at 50 percent off the published room rates, starting at \$191 plus government tax for a Horizon Club room and are valid for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. The offer ends December 31. For reservations or information, call 6561-8833.

## Grade A Office Market Gloomy

*By Liu Wenlong*

In the first quarter of 2002, the WTO effect began to ripple into the Beijing office market as indicated by the increasing numbers of inquiries on the leasing market. However, the space requirements for newcomers to Beijing was still small.

Meanwhile, traditional industries still dominated the market, outweighing high-tech. Domestic companies, on the other hand, outperformed their foreign counterparts and became the major market players in the office investment market.

Although it seemed to have bottomed out on the surface, the Beijing office market in Q1 2002 still continued its downward trend, with the average asking rent decreasing and the vacancy rate increasing. Obviously, this can be attributed to the substantial supply carried over from last year, which contributed to increasingly fierce market competition.

**Supply**

In the first quarter of 2002, three office projects came on stream similar to those launched in the fourth quarter of 2001 in terms of the size, adding 118,000 square meters to the market and bringing the total stock to 5.21 million square meters.

Raycom Infotech Park and China International Hi-tech Convention and Exhibition Center, whose completions were delayed in the fourth quarter of 2001, went on the market in the first quarter of 2002. Another building, Zhejiang Tower, came on line this quarter.

None of these three buildings is located in the traditional commercial center in the east of Beijing, alleviating the existing fierce competition in this area. Two of them -- China International Hi-tech Convention and Exhibition Center and Zhejiang Tower -- are located north of the North Third Ring Road. The other, Raycom Infotech Park, is located in Zhongguancun, Haidian District.

**Demand**

By industry, traditional sectors continued to outperform high-tech in the office market in first quarter of 2002. China Youth Travel Service leased 4,700 square meters, the biggest leasing transaction recorded this quarter. In the office investment market, domestic companies took over from foreign investors as the major source of demand.

**Leasing Market**

According to DTZ Research, the average asking rent for Grade A office buildings in the first quarter of 2002 was US\$27.16/sqm/month, a slight decrease of 0.91 percent compared to 3.68 percent decrease recorded in the fourth quarter of 2001.

**Sales Market**

According to DTZ Research, the average asking price in the first quarter of 2002 was US\$2, 286/sqm, a marginal decrease of 0.87% from that of the fourth quarter of 2001. As a result of the limited availability of buildings for sale - in particular in the Central Business District (CBD) and the increasing demand from both investors and end-users, the price for CBD buildings remained fairly firm.

**Vacancy Rate**

The vacancy rate for Grade A office buildings in the first quarter of 2002 climbed to 16.64 percent as opposed to 13.35 percent in the fourth quarter of 2001. The increase in the vacancy rate was mainly attributable to new supply this quarter.

**Forecast**

There will be no new supply coming on line in the second quarter of 2002. The market will have to absorb existing stock. With the WTO effect gradually in place and the overall economy beginning to pick up, the office market is expected to eventually bottom out with the asking rent stabilizing and the occupancy rate heading upwards.

Information provided by DTZ Debenham Tie Leung.

Table 1 Grade A Office Supply in Q1, 2002

Properties	Location	Office Area(sq.m. Gross)
Raycom Infotech Park	Zhongguancun Nan Road, Haidian District	49,000
China International Hi-tech Convention and Exhibition Center	Yumin Road, Chaoyang District	50,000
Zhejiang Tower	North Third Ring Central Road, Chaoyang District	19,000

Table 2 Major Sales Transactions in Q1, 2002

Company/Organization	Property	Location	Area (sq.m. gross)
Two Chinese Companies	Hualin Tower	Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang District	59,600
China Import & Export Bank	Peony Apartment	Donghuangchenggen Dongcheng District	30,000
Three Gorges International Tendering Company	Eagle Run Plaza	Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang District	1,800

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## Music &amp; Bars



Singer Zhang Qianqian

## An Ear to the Ground

The Second Concert Live music by Convenience Store and Zhang Qianqian. Founded in March 2001, Convenience Store comprises Guo Shuo, Du Wei, Mu Jingjin, Lang Lei, Zhang Weilin, De Heng. Its style is something like British pop music, and also it expresses ideas in different musical styles. Zhang



Singer Chang Kuan

Qianqian has released two albums, and now her style is less rock'n'roll, more melancholy and moody. **Where:** CD Cafe, Dongsanhuanlu. **When:** April 25, 8pm. **Tel:** 84049602.

## YPHH - Young Professionals Happy Hour

**Attention:** Qufu and Tai'an trip starts on April 19.

To avoid limited space, this time Young Professionals Happy Hour will be held in two bars. Three hundred free beers will be supplied by the Bridge School. Tsingtao, Gin tonic, vodka and rum coke only 15 yuan. Barbecue and pizza. **Where:** Hidden Tree, Jam House, South Sanlitun Bar Street. **When:** April 24, from 6:30pm. **Tel:** 6509-3642, 6506-3845.

## Tang Dynasty

Chinese vintage rock 'n' roll band play long-hair guitar rock.

**Where:** Sound Stage, A2, Huangtingzilu, Haidian District. **When:** April 27, 9pm. **Tel:** 8204-9579.

## Music at CD Cafe

Bands: Clear and Sick Doctor. **When:** April 25. **Where:** CD Cafe, Dongsanhuanlu. **Tel:** 1301 1886112. **Web:** www.msgrp.org

## Parties

Blues by Rhythm Dog, Jam House, April 19, 9pm, 6506-3845. Party: Binge and Purge, Club Vogue, April 19, 10pm, 6416-5316. Tropical Party, Hawaiian shirts welcome. Vics, April 20, 9pm, 6593-6215.

## Football

## Footy Frenzy

Big screen. Exclusive memorabilia signed by some of the world's top players. April 20, 6:55pm, live English Premiership match, Chelsea vs Manchester United; 9:55pm, live English Premiership match. April 21, 7:30pm, live English Premiership Super Sunday preview; 9:30pm, English Premiership Arsenal vs Ipswich town.

**Where:** Club Football Bar, 10 Taipingzhuang, near Red House Hotel, Chunxiulu, Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 6415-0988/6416-7786.

## Weather

**Friday April 19** Clear to cloudy  
Max: 20C. Min: 10C.

**Saturday April 20** Clear to cloudy  
Max: 26C. Min: 12C.

**Sunday April 21** Overcast, light rain, high winds  
Max: 22C. Min: 14C.

**Monday April 22** Overcast to clear  
Max: 20C. Min: 13C.

**Tuesday April 23** Clear  
Max: 21C. Min: 10C.

**Wednesday April 24** Clear  
Max: 18C. Min: 10C.

**Thursday April 25** Clear to cloudy  
Max: 22C. Min: 10C.

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo @ ynet.com or call 6590-2520. By Priscilla / Lydia

## Concerts

## Folk Music Chorus

By The Love of Grassland Chorus. Conductor: Bao Guoqing. **Where:** National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhonguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. **When:** April 20, 2:30pm. **Admission:** 10-30 yuan. **Tel:** 8854-5348.

## 2002 Gateway to Music Series

Liang Zhu-Classical Chinese Music Concert. By Lin Yue Ran Ran Chinese Music Band. Erhu: Lin Gan; Yangqin: Shi Yue; Pipa: Luan Yue; Zheng: Fan Ran. Program: Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, Please Stay, My Guest from Afar, Qingqiang Themes Capriccio, Azaleas, Fight with Tigers, Drape the Curtain Upside Down. **Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** April 20, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 20-120 yuan. **Tel:** 6559-8285.

## Shanxi Zuoquan Folk Songs and Variety Show Concert

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** April 22, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-20 yuan. **Tel:** 6559-8285.

## Oscar-Winning Soundtracks

By China Musical and Dance Orchestra. Songs include music from *Titanic*,

*Gone with the Wind*, *Jurassic Park*, *Ghost and Dances with Wolves*. **Where:** Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongsishitiao. **When:** April 25, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 80-480 yuan. **Tel:** 6500-1188 ext. 5127.



## Tina Arena Concert

Australian singer Tina Arena will give her first concert in Beijing. She released her first album "Strong as Steel" in 1990, then she proved her gift in music in her second album "Don't Ask". After her third album

"In Deep," she became known around the world.

**Where:** Beijing Worker's Gymnasium, Gongtibeilu, Chaoyang District. **When:** April 30, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 80-500 yuan. **Tel:** 6501-6655.



## Romantic Chen Sa - Piano Concerto

Chen Sa and China Philharmonic Orchestra. Born in 1979, pianist Chen Sa received professional music education and this year she will make tour performance in Italy, U.S, Britain, China and Japan. Conductor: Yu Long.

**Where:** Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** April 27, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 60-380 yuan, 500 yuan VIP. **Tel:** 6500-1188 ext. 5176.

## Exhibitions

## 46th Japanese Modern Calligraphy Tour Exhibition

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of normalization of the diplomatic relationship between China and Japan, works by 20 Japanese artists will be on show.

**Where:** Art Hall, China Millennium Monument, A9, Fuxinglu, Xicheng District. **When:** April 24-May 7. **Tel:** 6851-3322.

## The Story of Time - Works by Zhang Lijun

Over 50 wash & ink paintings feature figures. **Where:** New Art Center, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** April 20-30, 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6528-9103.

## Slovenia Love Keepsakes Exhibition

"The Call of Love" will present over 100 pieces of works from the 19th century to the early 20th century. Gifts, personal articles, decorations, postcards, letters and pictures. **Where:** Yan Huang Art Museum, 9 Huizhongli, Chaoyang Dis-

trict. **When:** April 26-May 9, 9am-4pm. **Tel:** 6493-5334.

## Xiao Hong and Feng Feng's Paintings

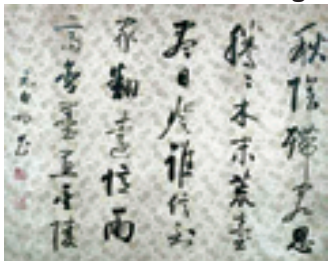
Xiao Hong's painting -- mainly murals of the charming and mysterious world of ancient China and its culture. Broad roads dominate his work. Feng Feng -- strong colors used by the imperial court: orange, blackish green and dark purple.

**Where:** Qin Gallery, 38A Fangcaodi Beijie, Chaoyang District. **When:** April 25-May 9, 10am-6pm. **Tel:** 6507-4062 or 1360 1038025 **E-mail:** qingallery@yahoo.com

## Joint Exhibition by Eleven Artists

Artists from Japan, South Korea, Chinese mainland and Taiwan. Works with a western style, but also expressing different cultural characters.

**Where:** Han Mo Gallery, Sanlitun Beili, Chaoyang District, near the International Youth Hotel. **When:** April 27-May 2. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6416-6254.



Calligraphy



The gift for lovers

## Activities

## Beijing Photo Group

An enthusiastic amateur or professional photographer? Interested in meeting other photographers and sharing ideas, information and experience? The group welcomes all serious photographers to bi-weekly meetings (every two weeks, at 5pm in the Jam House) for presentations, slide shows, and encourages you to bring along photos for informal feedback and discussion. **E-mail:** bjgphoto@yahoo.com **Tel:** 1391 0534743.

## White Pagoda Temple and Guanji Temple

Renovated and reopened recently, the White Pagoda Temple was built in Kubla Khan's days. **Where:** at the entrance of White Pagoda, Fuchengmennei Dajie, east of the Fuchengmen Subway Station. **When:** April 20, 1:50 pm. **Tel:** 8462-2081/1350 1035145.

## Shanxi and Shaanxi Trip by Car

**When:** May 1-6. Route round trip is about 2,000km, passing Pingyao, Hukou, Yan'an, Yanshuan, Suide and Taiyuan. Places of in-

terest: Qiao's Courtyard, Pingyao ancient city, Hukou waterfall, the nine turns of the Yellow River and Jin Ci.

**Accommodation:** hotel (two nights), cave dwelling (one night), camping (one night). **Fee:** 1,180 yuan (drive car by themselves), 1,580 yuan (if you take other's car). **Web:** www.yuanfeiniaoo.com.cn

(Beijing Yuanfeiniaoo Outdoor Sports Club, building 3, Zhichunli, Haidian District.

## Understanding Chinese Thought through the Forbidden City

Zhao Tiesheng, a professor specializing in history and theology, will give a projector slide show of photos of the Forbidden City and unveil the Chinese mode of thinking and nine fundamental ideas. Free, English narration. **Where:** Cha Jia Fu Tea House, next to Kongyiji Restaurant, Houhai

area. Opposite Soong Ching Ling's residence on the south side of the lake. **When:** April 24, 7:30 pm-9:30 pm. **Tel:** 8462-2081/1350 1035145.0 **Web:** www.chinesecultureclub.org



White Pagoda Temple



Painting by Liu Dahong

## Auction

## Spring Auction by Guardian

Organized by China Guardian Auction, 830 Chinese ancient and modern calligraphy and paintings, china, ancient books, oil paintings, coins and paper money.

**Preview:** April 19-21, 9am-6pm. **Where:** Multifunctional Hall of Beijing Kunlun Hotel. **Auction:** April 22-23. **Tel:** 6518-2315. **Web:** www.guaweb.com

## Performances



## The Third Beijing Arts Festival

Concerts, ballets, folk dances, drama and also exhibitions. Altogether more than 30 art groups and 10 exhibitions will be displayed during the festival including Pierre Cardin's *Tristan and Yseult*, the Ballet National de Cuba, the *Merchant of Venice* by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

**When:** April 20-May 31. **Tel:** 8528-2509 (booking tickets), 8528-2264 (more details). **Web:** www.meetinbeijing.org

## Drama: Se Nu Lang

Drama adopted from work of Taiwanese cartoonist Zhu Deyong. It depicts four different single women's lives. Directed by Zhang Youmei, starring Wang Hairong. **Where:** Mini Theater of People's Art Theater, Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** April 23-May 4, 7:15 pm (closed on Mondays). **Admission:** 80 yuan. **Tel:** 6525-0123.



The cartoon book Se Nu Lang

## Peking Opera

*Ye Zhu Lin* **When:** April 20, 2:30pm.

*Dao Yu Ma, Ba Wang Bie Ji, Chi Sang Zhen*, by Beijing Fenglei Opera Troupe. **Where:** Huguang Guild Hall, 3 Hufanglu, Xuanwu District. **Admission:** 100-180 yuan, 200, 380 yuan VIP. **Tel:** 6351-8284.

## Chinese Kung Fu Show

Directed by Li Xining, features Chinese kung fu. By Shandong Laizhou Kungfu School. Ninety-minute performance. **Where:** Xinrong Theater. **When:** from April 16, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 70-280 yuan. **Tel:** 6354-3344.

## Silent Dawn

By National Drama House. **Where:** Capital Theatre, Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** April 27-may 12, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 60-300 yuan. **Tel:** 6525-0996.



Noel Britten

Pierre Hollins

## Punchline Comedy Club

John Moorhead presents direct from London's comedy circuit. It will feature Noel Britten and Pierre Hollins.

**Where:** Poachers Inn, Sanlitun. **When:** April 25-26. **Admission:** 200 yuan advance tickets. **Tel:** 1391 0826384, 6415-5245 (The Comedy Club), 6417-2632 (Poachers).

## Movie

## Spanish Movie - Belle de Jour

Directed by Luis Bunuel, 1967, Italy, France, Starring Catherine Deneuve, Jean Sorel, Michel Piccoli, Genevieve Page, Pierre Clementi.

**Where:** Space for Imagination Coffee House, The Loft, Firenze. **When:** April 20, 7pm (Coffee House), April 21, 2pm (Firenze), 7pm (The Loft). **Tel:** 6279-1280, 6506-5592, 6501-7501.



## Sports

## Mountain Bikers of Beijing

Every weekend, they head for the suburbs. Distances range from 50 to 120 km. **Fee:** 80-100 yuan.

**Departure:** 8-9am, from the Agricultural Exhibition Hall, Dongsanhuanlu. **Web:** groups.yahoo.com/group/beijingmtb. **E-mail:** vlevbjng@mail.netchina.com.cn

## Bike Ride

**Where:** North of Huairou County. **When:** April 21. **Route:** Start from a high point to the west of Miyun reservoir, Wutonghiao village and end at Yanxi Lake. The whole ride is between 40 and 50 kms.

**Pick up:** 8:30 at the Lido Starbucks, 9am at the Capital Paradise. **Return:** 4-5pm.

**Cost:** 200 yuan (including round

trip transportation, morning tea, map, following bus and guide). **How to join:** E-mail bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk or call Huilin at 1370 1003694 (leave your phone number).

## Volleyball

Players from Germany, USA, England and China. The games are open to all who wish to play and have fun.

**Where:** Sikuaiyu Volleyball Court, go to Yutingqiao at the Nan'erhuanlu, then north about 400 meters. At the sign "Ai Hua Bin Guan" turn right into a small alley. Keep going until next T-intersection, turn left, about 20 meters, the court is inside the compound. **When:** every Thursday, 7-9pm; Sunday, 1:30-4:30pm. **E-mail:** Beijing\_volleyball@hotmail.com

## Courses

## About National Geography

By Li Yuan, an astronomer, one of the founders of China National Planetarium. But this time he will give a lecture on American national geography.

**Where:** Xingshecongcong Bar, Zhonguancun Nandajie, opposite the north gate of National Library. **When:** April 19, 7:30pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6846-3552. **Web:** www.travelphotograph.com

**Language and Culture Program**

Chinese slang class, every Tuesday, 7:30-9:30pm, 40 yuan each class. Language and culture, every

Wednesday, 7:30-9:30pm, 40 yuan each class. A series of casual talks in English on Chinese language and culture. **Where:** Library Bar, 1F, Tower B, East Gate Plaza, right behind the Poly Theater, Dongsishitiao Subway Station. **Tel:** 1350 1035145.

## Paint yourself a Peking Opera Face

Six veteran artists from Peking Opera Troupe share the meanings of those stunning faces and characters. **Where:** Liyuan Theatre, 1F Qianmen Hotel, south of Liulichang Culture Street. **When:** April 21, 2-4pm. **Price:** 25 yuan, 15 yuan for kids. **Tel:** 8462-2081/1350 1035145.

## Dining Out

## Surprise for Secretaries

Presenting a secretary's name card, the secretary can join lucky draw, with prizes including stay at the Hotel, dinner at Shang Palace, Nishimura, Coffee Garden, afternoon tea at Lobby Lounge, and 500 yuan worth of Food & Beverage vouchers.

Coffee Garden offers Special buffet lunch at 268 yuan for two and lunch and dinner buffet at 376 yuan for two (including soft drinks). Shang Palace features a special Dim Sum Luncheon menu at 236 yuan for four. Nishimura Set menu at 218 yuan for two. Deli Shop presents cakes

and barman will create special Secretary Cocktail named "MI-Su". **When:** April 22-26. **Where:** Beijing Shangri-La Hotel. **Tel:** 68412211-2989.

## Wynns Wine Dinner

All April, Aria features wine from the Wynns Estate Winery from Coonawarra, Australia. The wine from this estate include John Riddoch, Cabinet Sauvignon. New Chef de Cuisine Richard Millar will cook a Wynns Wine four-course dinner.

**Where:** Aria Bar and Restaurant, China World Hotel. **When:** April 20. **Price:** 488 yuan. **Tel:** 6505-2266 ext. 6284.



Cultural Tour



The tortoise bearing the tablet before Shao Shi Pagoda  
Photos by Zhao Shiyu



Wang An waves farewell at the entrance to the afterworld

# Spooky Eunuch Politics Babble from Empty Grave

By Jiang Zhong

They were slaves to the imperial family, mutilated to remove their threat. But the eunuchs grew to be more potent than the emperors themselves.

The Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) witnessed their heyday. During the last century of the Ming, 70,000 eunuchs were in service throughout the country, 10,000 in the capital. They had their own bureaucracy, parallel to that of the civil service bureaucracy but not controlled by it. A school was set up to educate them, and many became expert in bureaucratic procedures and documentary forms.

They appointed court officials, issued imperial edicts and even intervened in imperial family affairs. Eunuch control over vital government processes was particularly detrimental during the reign of Emperor Shenzong (also known as Wanli 1573-1620).

Shenzong, weary of the bickering among his top officials and their resistance to his desire to command troops in person, simply stopped attending to the affairs of government, neither reading papers submitted to him nor filling vacancies in key posts. He let eunuchs collect taxes in the provinces, unconcerned how they might tyrannize wealthy families.

**Evil Wei**

The most spectacular example of these abuses occurred in the person of Wei Zhongxian, who cleverly rose to power by obtaining a position as purveyor of food to the concubine of Emperor Shenzong's son, and later in the 1620s, dominated the courtlife of Shenzong's grandson.

The successive deaths of emperors Shenzong in 1620 and son Guangzong in 1621 left a power vacuum. With Wei's support, the Concubine Li Xuanshi in 1621 moved into the Qian Qing Palace, the palace of the Forbidden City only for use by emperors. The young Emperor Xizong (1621-1628) was moved out.

Wang An and other eunuchs moved to isolate Wei and the "iron hand concubine" from her followers.

Finally they confined her to the Hui Luan Palace. Wei retaliated by having Wang An killed in 1625.

Wang's mausoleum today remains in Chang Le Si Village, Liang Xiang.

The eunuch Wang An is famous as Wei's mortal foe, his faction reaching its summit of power in defeating Wei.

Wang's Mausoleum

Although cut short by his rival, Wang's memorial tomb is today a mighty grand affair. The mausoleum courtyard area is so big a temple could be erected in one corner in 1625 and 100 families moved in to live there later in 1644. Half is still vacant.

Two entrances to the mausoleum bear calligraphy couplets of the Emperor Xizong praising Wang's loyalty.

Villager Liu Jingde can recite all the village's tablet inscriptions. Liu, 73, tells *Beijing Today* he had never left the village.

He points to a tablet by the main hall of the Chang Le Temple. "The last monk in the temple," he said, "was forced to move out in 1940 owing to his involvement in a sex scandal."

"The local government paid him 400 silver dollars for the temple complexes," he says, stomping on the tablet. "This tablet records the fact."

He moves to the next. "A pagoda was brought to the temple by a strong wind soon after the construction of the temple. A visiting Korean monk reports the same pagoda disappeared after a strong wind in Korea on the same day the pagoda arrived."

"The emperor loved the story, and titled the pagoda 'Zi Lai (自来 Come of Itself)'."

Lost pagoda

Behind the main hall, Liu shows the base of the



Decorative stone to Wang An's tomb mound; the relief on the left



Wang An's tomb mound

windswept lost pagoda—four moveable stones today.

Five-meter walls surround the temple courtyard. A crack on the rear wall supplies access to half of the mausoleum.

The locals planted 1,000 aspen trees here. Fragments of relics can be found along the dirt path, a 10 minute walk to the tomb mound.

Tomb raiders dug a hole in the wall, leaving a dark, mysterious vacancy. Superstitious visitors hesitate at staring into the gaping earth wound. Then walk around.

An exquisite relief catches the eye. "The entrance to the afterworld," says Liu. It looks like an ordinary quadrangle gate that can be found in Qianmen.

A man stands in the middle with half his body hidden by one door. He is waving.

"That is Wang An," Liu says.

"He is waving farewell to the world as he enters the afterworld. The two standing on both sides of the entrance are his parents. They came out to lead their son to their new family."

Liu's matter-of-fact blather lingers in the clammy tomb air. The lost world of Wang An feels dark and cold. Liu moves to climb out of the mound. *Beijing Today* follows him, fast.

One of Wang's companions' tomb mounds stands nearby. Trees growing out of this tomb overwhelm the decorative stone. Lizards shuttle back and forth across the carvings.

Curse of Shao Shi

One kilometer east of Chang Le Village stand the Shao Shi Pagoda and its guardian tablet. They are both intact.

Li Guoqiang, a 54-year-old brick kiln owner, claims to know why. "On a winter night of 1967, one of the Red Guards suggested to destroy the two relics. Before they started out the next morning, the Red Guard died suddenly, which frightened the others out of their plan."

The tortoise bearing the tablet raises a proud head. In the distance, rifle cracks and explosive booms suggest the local garrison is in training.

Born in 1335, pagoda owner Yao Guangxiao was the teacher of Yan Wang (later Emperor Yong Le, 1360-1424) from 1383. He had become a monk at 14 and begun studying history, military affairs and poetry from that age.

Although entitled to move out by the emperor, he refused to leave the temple until his death at 84. The emperor ordered the erection of a pagoda in his memory. The new terrace guarding the pagoda base supplies an ideal place for a short break.

Afternoon tour

The modern Jinghui Golf Club (京辉高尔夫俱乐部) two kilometers south breaks all the ancient daydreaming. The club holds an annual contest for ambassadors. The professional 18-hole, par 72 golf course supplies a challenge.

*Admittance for golf:* 399 yuan (till the end of this month) for 18 holes (approximately five hours)

*Contact:* 6032-0188; Call at 6032-2288 to make an appointment

Alternative

Qing Long Hu (青龙湖) Park next to Jinghui is conducting a flower-walk festival until May 10.

*Admittance:* Ten yuan for the park. *Open:* 8am-8pm. *Lunch:* local dishes are supplied *Open:* 11:30am-2pm

*Getting to Wang An's mausoleum:*

*By car:* Drive along Jing Shi Expressway (starts at Liu Li Qiao 六里桥). Exit at Zhao Xin Dian (赵辛店). The Chang Qing Road leads to Nan Si Wei (南四卫) Village, 20 minutes' drive. Turn north at the cross-junction. In three minutes, the mausoleum is on the left, the pagoda on the right.

## Beautiful Boao Bids for Attention

By Jiang Zhong

The city of Boao (博鳌) entered the limelight during the recent Boao Forum for Asia.

Situated on the east coast of China's Hainan Island, Boao is where the East Asian and Southeast Asian economic zones meet in the heart of the Asia Pacific Rim.

Hainan is the only tropical island of China, a mixture of year-round greenery, beautiful waterways, mountains and enviable weather.

The landforms and topography of the Boao area rival those of the Gold Coast of Australia, Miami Beach in the United States, and Cancun, Mexico. The natural ecology of Boao has been acclaimed as "the most untouched natural estuarine environment in the world".

The Boao Aquapolis meshes lakes, rivers, sea, mountains, foothills, islands, coconut trees, sandy beaches, exotic stones, hot springs, and rural resources into an integrated whole. Jade Belt

Beach, the narrow sandbank in the east, separates the river water from the sea. Mountain ridges encircle the Lake Shamei where the water ecology has been preserved, accentuated by sandy beaches, fields and gardens.

The change of seasons, the ebb and flow of the tides, the verdant coconut trees and the remote dark green mountains present the visitor with a fairyland setting.

**Attractions:**

**Jade Belt Beach**

Located in the eastern part of the Aquapolis, Jade Belt Beach is a narrow sandy peninsula separating the waters of the Wanquan River from the South China Sea.

The salt spray of the ocean on one side forms a classic contrast with the tranquil estuarine waters of the Wanquan River and Lake Shamei on the other. The total length of the Jade Belt Beach peninsula is 8.5 km. This peculiar topographic feature is unique in



Chinawide

Asia but bears a striking resemblance to the Gold Coast in Australia and Cancun in Mexico. In June 1999, Jade Belt Beach was recognized by the Shanghai headquarters of the Guinness Book as the world's "narrowest sand peninsula separating a river from the sea".

**Lecheng**

Lecheng, located on a quiet island in the Wanquan River, is an ancient town with 600 years of history. Formerly the site of the Qionghai county seat, Lecheng now boasts old-style Chinese houses with slate roofs and streets paved with slate. With its

waving palm trees and old dwellings, a trip to Lecheng is a trip to Hainan of a by-gone era.

**Cruises on the Wanquan River**

The Wanquan River, with a total length of 163 kms, cuts across Qionghai from west to east. Cruises from the center of Qionghai to Boao take the traveler through 24.5 km of scenic tropical countryside, culminating in the beautiful estuary of Boao, site of the Aquapolis.

**Getting there:**

Plane to Haikou, bus to Qionghai, one more bus to Boao



Shao Shi Pagoda